

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Arlington, WA

www.arlingtonwachurch.org

May 2026



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

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

The Messenger



Our Values

- Welcoming
- Compassion
- Serving
- Respect

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Sunday, May 10th, Mother's Day Brunch, following worship, provided by the men of Our Saviour's. If you would like to help or would like more details, please contact the church office. Plan now to attend!

OSYM (Our Saviour's Youth Ministry) **Sundays** are Sunday May 3rd & 10th at 9:00a.m. We will be having our end of the year party May 17th. OSYM Summer break will be June, July, and August. Have a Safe and Happy Summer! Classes will resume in September. Children are invited to come enjoy Bible lessons, fun games and service projects. OSYM Sundays is open to all children ages Preschool through 5th grade. Questions, contact the church office



Congratulations to Our
GRADUATES

Does your family have a graduating Senior? We would love to display them in our June Messenger Newsletter. Please send a picture and short write up of your student's plans after graduation, by May 20th to office@arlingtonwachurch.org or drop it off at the church office. Thank you!

Preschool's Water Day Fun! - Weather permitting we will be having a fun water play day on Tuesday the 19th and Thursday the 21st. We have everything planned, but could use a few volunteers...we can't guarantee you'll stay dry, but we can guarantee you'll have a fun morning. See Jennifer Ess if you're interested in helping out!

Preschool's end of the year celebration is coming up! Celebration Days are planned for 3-Day Class is Wednesday, May 20th at 9:30am and 2-day Class is Friday, May 22nd at 9:30am – Church members are welcome to attend.





From Pastor John

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Lindsay Armstong offers a brief reflection on the Ascension of Jesus and what it might suggest for us in this “in-between” spot where we find ourselves. Since Ascension falls in the middle of the week, on a Thursday, it often gets overlooked. Yet, it holds promise for us. We know that Jesus is risen. We look forward for the day Jesus comes again and brings wholeness for all creation. We live “in-between” and that is a time full of promise and possibility!

The liturgical time in the weeks between Easter and Pentecost is a wonderful time for living in between. Between turning in a final exam and receiving the grade. Between planting a garden and enjoying its bounty. Between spring cleaning and summer vacation. In-betweenness is not only seasonal. I am enduring a significant health challenge but have no diagnosis or effective treatment yet. My daughter is capable, independent, and entering adulthood, but she is still my little girl. The churches with which I work are start-ups, fully church yet still becoming. So much of life is lived in between.

This season, not to mention Ascension Day in the Christian tradition, reminds us that we need awareness and skills to live faithfully while in-between. Easter has come and gone. Christ is risen. A new world with Jesus as ruler is here, and we seek to align our lives with his regime. Yet we wait for the fullness of resurrection power to be manifest. We wait for the promised Holy Spirit to show up and make a difference. Sometimes, we wait well, knowing that good things come to those patiently focused less on themselves and more on God. Other times, we feel lost, betrayed, or let down, as if waiting for anything in our instant-gratification culture proves God does not love us.

In Jesus’ final, preascension words in Luke 24:44–53, we hear that the centuries of waiting, testifying, and prophesying are finally fulfilled. After looking back, Jesus looks forward. We hear that disciples, both then and now, will witness what God is doing and be clothed with power from on high. Then Jesus blesses them, withdraws, and in-between time sets in. However, rather than grieving a lack of closure or God’s seeming unwillingness to meet a list of needs and wants, the followers of Jesus receive his blessing, observe his departure, and live with intentionality and great joy, reveling in what they have. They learn to watch, listen, be together, wait, bless, and worship. They do not have all the answers, but they have more important things: clear directive from God (Luke 24:47–49), each other (vv. 44–53), blessing (vv. 50–53), and—one of the riches that can be mined from the in-between time—joy (vv. 52–53).

Interim times teach, change, and prepare us. They help us learn to appreciate and mine all moments, both the expected and unexpected seasons, the welcome and the difficult stretches of life. In-between times can forge in us a skill that the faithful of all ages have to learn: the art of waiting. When those rare moments of closure and new beginnings actually occur and then wear off, God is in the in-between time, teaching and reforming us once again, helping us rejoice in the reality that we are neither stagnant nor completed.

Blessings on this time “in-between”! Christ is Risen! Christ will come again!

Armstrong, Lindsay P., et al. [“Ascension of the Lord.”](#) *Connections: A Lectionary Commentary for Preaching and Worship: Year A: Lent through Pentecost*, edited by Joel B. Green et al., First edition, vol. 2, Westminster John Knox Press, 2019, p. 300.

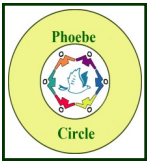


Mission Circle Information. The Women’s Mission Circle originated in 1950. Their correspondence and contributions were directed to those abroad and the local communities. In 1975 we began making quilts, layettes, health and school kits. Our focus today continues on making quilts, baby-care kits and school kits which are shipped twice a year, world-wide through Lutheran World Relief, to help those living in poverty. We also continue to send financial contributions to local missionaries. We will be collecting for school kits starting this month and thru the summer for the fall shipment.

Mission Circle thanks you for all your support on Quilt Sunday. Between the silent auction, sale of a couple more quilts and designated offering we raised \$855. This will go a long way to fund our expenses of batting, shipping and other kit supplies. On May 1st, 35 quilts and 42 baby care kits were delivered to the LWR shipping point in Ballard. Thanks to Howard and Sharon. Thank you again for supporting this mission of the church.

Baby Care Kits-Are you a yard sale shopper? Please consider purchasing items for the Baby Care Kits. Receiving blankets, swaddling blankets, night gowns, jackets with a hood, size 6-24 months, hats, t-shirts (no Onesies). If you have questions, please contact the church office.

Mission Circle meets Tuesday May 5th & 19th at 9:00am in the modular. Contact the church office for more information.



Phoebe Circle Phoebe is a bible study group for women that meets on the third Thursday of the month. This month, Phoebe Circle will meet on Thursday May 21st at 10:00 am in the classroom at OSLC. Bring your bible and copy of Gather Magazine - March/April issue if you have it. If not, we share! Phoebe Circle is always welcoming to new people. If you have any questions contact the church office



Men’s Coffee Fellowship will meet here at the church on Wednesday, May 13th & 27th at 10am. We will exchange stories, drink some java, and eat some pastries. For more information, please contact Jim Kjargaard. (2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month)

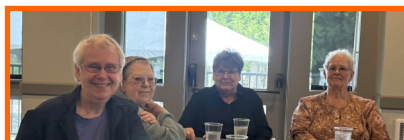


Comfort Squad meets Friday May 23rd, 10:00am in the classroom. Contact the church office for more information.

Meal Project: This project is now administered through the Volunteers of America. OSLC will provide "Grab and Go" meals on May 19th. Jennifer Ess and Sarah Amende will prepare the meals. The meals will be delivered to the Arlington Community Resource Center.

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. For questions or more suggestions on how you can help please call me: Bob Zerbel 425) 239-1785. Thank you.

April 23rd Lunch Bunch that was held at Gleneagle Restaurant. We had 14 participants and the meal, setting and fellowship were outstanding.



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

IT'S ALMOST HERE....

CINCO DE MAYO

TACO POTLUCK

**Fun Evening of Food & Fellowship
with our Church Family**

**Tuesday, May 5, 2026
5:00–7:00 P.M. • Church Gym**

**Bring a taco ingredient, side, or dessert
(Potluck Signup Sheet in Kitchen Hallway)**

Fun Games for **All including Prizes
and a Pinata for the kids!**

Photo Booth with Festive Props

**WE HOPE
YOU CAN
JOIN US!!**

CINCO DE MAYO

Hosted by the Fellowship Committee



CHURCH GARAGE SALE

HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR CHURCH WHILE DOING A LITTLE SPRING CLEANING!

The Fellowship Committee is excited to invite you to participate in our upcoming Garage Sale - a wonderful way to declutter, connect, and support our church.

How it works:

- Church members will be responsible for setting up and taking down their own tables.
- You will also need to price, sell, and collect funds for your own items. All proceeds will go to the Church.
- At the end of the sale, everyone will clean up their own table(s)/area and take with them any unsold items.
- **Reserve your table(s) NOW** – Signup sheet is located in the kitchen hallway.

Important Note:

All proceeds from the garage sale will be donated to the church and designated for parking lot improvements. Let's come together for a day of fun, food, fellowship, and purpose.

“Many hands make light work – and a joyful community!”



Date: Saturday, June 13, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Location: Church Gym

HOT DOGS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ALL GARAGE SALE WORKERS!

You are invited...

The **Stillaguamish Conference Lay Leader Committee** invites you to gather with our congregation's volunteers in the areas of Christian Education and Fellowship on **Monday, May 18th at 7pm at Camano Lutheran**, 850 Heichel Rd, Camano Island, WA 98282

We know our churches are small and this presents both challenges and opportunities for both of these ministries. Below are some of the questions we will explore.

*We know we are small congregations, what can we even do?
What would you like to do? What is your vision for the future?
Finish this sentence: We could do more if only....
How can being a part of the Stillaguamish Conference support your mission?*



We hope you can come. We'll be serving root beer floats to get us in the mood to "float" some new ideas and potentially learn from each other. Let's get together and see what happens. I know the Holy Spirit will be there! Questions: Kris Rinnert, ktrinnert@gmail.com

NW Washington Synod Gathering

**Life in God's Garden:
Seeds of Generosity**

Saturday, May 30 | 9am-5pm



Worship
Workshops
Rev. Tim Brown, Keynote
Lunch included
\$40/person

at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lynnwood
& Lynnwood Neighborhood Center

lutheransnw.org/events

Let's Grow Together!

Please join us as we gather to celebrate, learn, and connect around the theme of generosity.

This is generosity rooted in God's abundant love for God's creation. Generosity of time, space, talents, money - and generosity of our hearts.

On Saturday, May 30, 9am-5pm - we will be gathering at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood AND the new Lynnwood Neighborhood Center.

We will center our time in worship at 9am with song, communion, preaching by Bishop Shelley, and gratitude and blessing for our Synod VP Kay Edgerton who will be concluding her term this summer.

We will then welcome inspiration from our keynote presenter, Rev. Tim Brown, ELCA director for congregational stewardship. After we take a break for lunch, there will be **two** afternoon workshop times - with a total of **22 options** from local leaders!

To close the day, we will re-gather for a sending service - including time to install our newly elected synod council officers and members.

All are welcome to register - lay members and rostered leaders. There are so many wonderful workshop options, you will want to bring a group from your ministry site to capture as many of the offerings as you can!

Registration Info:

Cost will be \$40/person - includes full program and lunch.

During registration, you will be asked to select your workshops and lunch.

BEFORE you register, read about the workshop options here: <https://www.lutheransnw.org/events/synod-gathering>

Once you have reviewed the workshop options, click the registration link below!
Registration will close at 12noon on Monday, May 18.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Northwest Washington Synod / ELCA
5519 Phinney Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98103
206-783-9292

www.lutheransnw.org

CHILDCARE NEWS

by Melissa Hackworth, Program Supervisor

We love this sunshine! We have been spending as much time outside as we can soaking it all in. We are starting to plan in-house activities this summer for our school-age children and are looking forward to having more time with them. Last summer we had a different theme each week (slime week, water week, etc.) and it worked out great!

May 4th-8th is Teacher Appreciation Week. We look forward to this week each year. It's a fun week of small surprises to show everyone how much we appreciate them. Families often join in too, adding to the fun!

PRESCHOOL NEWS

By Jennifer Ess, Director/Teacher

After a restful and refreshing Spring Break the preschool students returned full of energy and excitement to finish the preschool year strong! It is hard to believe there are only a few short weeks of Preschool left before we break for the summer. We are always sad to see our 3 day students leave – but we are fortunate to live in a small town and are able to still connect with them. Most of our 2 day students will be returning in the fall as “big kids” in the 3 day class. We're also looking forward to meeting all the new families that will be calling Our Saviour's Preschool home!

As we begin our last month of preschool the children are patiently waiting for our classroom caterpillars to turn into butterflies, and waiting for their seeds to start sprouting! You can see many of our growing projects in our classroom windows! We check on both the caterpillars and seeds everyday to see how they are changing. If we time it correctly, we usually release the butterflies close to the last day of school. Students are also busy preparing for our Celebration Days! Our Celebration Days are planned for Wednesday, May 20th at 9:30 and Friday, May 22nd at 9:45 – Church members are welcome to attend.

Water Days are planned for May as well! Weather permitting we will have outdoor water play days on Tuesday, May 19th and Thursday May 21st. In the event the weather doesn't cooperate, we do have a plan B. If you'd like to help out, please let me know!

Thank you as always for your continued support and prayers for the Preschool. I am proud of this ministry of Our Saviour's and the number of families and children we help each year. We do have spaces available in both our classrooms this fall – if you hear of anyone looking for a preschool family, please send them our way.



2 Day Class



3 Day Class



May 2026
From the Bishop:

From the May 2026 edition of The Spirit

I am so glad that the cherry trees and magnolia trees and dogwoods are blooming. I am ecstatic to see daffodils and tulips ... and to trust that the azaleas and rhododendrons are on the way. I can almost taste local strawberries ... ones with real flavor. And the promise of juicy tomatoes is getting closer. I can feel the dirt under my fingernails as I begin to plant in my small yard and garden. There is something both ancient and new, hopeful and earthy about planting a garden.

If you think about it, one of the first images we have in scripture is of a garden. God created humans and put them in a garden. And at the very end of the Bible, in Revelation 22, we hear a description of another beautiful garden – this one with a river flowing on and on, and the tree of life on either side, bearing fruit and offering healing for all nations. It is in our bones, our hearts, our souls to be in a garden – to be grounded in abundance. To be planted by the river of the water of life, flowing from the throne of God.

Still, we might look at our communities and this world and think, “There isn’t enough. There isn’t enough care. There is a lack of justice and empathy and hope.” We might look at our congregation and lament, “There aren’t enough resources. We have so little. What can we possibly do?” We might look at our own lives and wonder if we can make any difference at all.

But while we are holding to what little we think we have, God is busy growing and creating, bringing new life from what seemed dormant. Scripture reminds us again and again that we are planted in God’s abundant garden, even when we forget it. God provides water when we feel parched. God feeds us when we are hungry. God is ripening tomatoes right before our eyes – even as we complain about the pale and tasteless ones from the grocery store.

What a gift and promise this is – from the beginning of creation to today and into God’s future: God provides. Even when we doubt. Even when we hoard. Even when we grasp for more. God still provides. God provided clothing in the garden, manna in the desert, water from a rock, oil that didn’t run out. Jesus fed 5000, and Jesus appeared to Mary in a garden. What a generous and extravagant God.

We are truly planted in God’s abundance.

And with that promise, I invite you to come to the **synod gathering on May 30 for Life in God’s Garden: Seeds of Generosity**. (Learn more and get registered here: <https://www.lutheransnw.org/events/synod-gathering/2026-05-30>) It will be a day of learning, community, encouragement, and imagining together how we live generously for the sake of the world. For we trust that through the Spirit, God plants. God waters. God brings life. And by grace, we get to be a part of it – as people rooted in God’s garden.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee bishop@lutheransnw.org

Month	Actual Giving	Budget Goal	Difference	Actual Expenses
March	*	*	*	*
Y.T.D. (July-Mar.)	*	*	*	*



The budget year runs from July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

* Not available at time of printing

Worship Attendance for April 2026

	<i>In person</i>	<i>Online</i>
5th:	121	147
12th:	64	82
19th:	77	61
26th:	64	

- 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

Thank you for giving to Our Saviour's!

May Worship Servers

	3	10	17	24	31
Communion Assistants	Judy Donoghue Peggy Shortt	Greg & Beth Husted	Ron & Kathy Thordarson	Howard & Sharon Knoepfle	Jan Hopson Nancy Yonker
Lectors/ Readers	Kevin Ess	Jamie Smith	Lilly/Henry Schraan	Tom Rohde	Kathy Stuehrenberg
Audio/Video Booth Techs	Sally Shinstrom Max Maxwell	Max Maxwell	Max Maxwell Greg Husted	Max Maxwell Kathy Thordarson	Allen & Darcy Larson
Flowers		Debra Isler	Nancy Yonker	Dee Daves	Jean Milless
Coffee Hour	Phoebe Circle	Men's Fellowship Mother's Day Brunch	Mission Circle	Lisa Masters	Fellowship Committee
Ushers/Hosts	Hart Family	Vance & Tammy DeWard	Steve & Robin Barker	Lisa Masters Barb Chamberlin	Crone Family
Lock Up	Deb Isler	Kyle Hart	Deb Isler		Deb Isler
Tellers	Sharon Knoepfle Jan Hopson	Max Maxwell Dianne Engelsen	Kathy Thordarson Judy Phillips	Sharron Knutson Sharon Knoepfle	Kerry Graves Kathy Thordarson

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 9:00a OSYM for Kids 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee & Conversation 11:30a Fellowship Mtg 4p Men's Basketball	4	5 9:00a Mission Circle 5:00p-7:00p Taco Potluck	6 5:00p Choir Rehearsal	7 6:00p Men's Basketball	8	9
10 Mother's Day 9:00a OSYM for Kids 10:00a Worship 11:00a Mother's Day Brunch 4p Men's Basketball	11	12	13 10:00a Men's Fellowship 5:00p Choir Rehearsal	14 6:00p Men's Basketball	15	16
17 9:00a OSYM for Kids 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee & Conversation 11:30 Finance Mtg 4p Men's Basketball	18	19 9:00a Mission Circle 7:00p Learning Center Board Mtg	20 9:30a Preschool Celebration 3-day 5:00p Choir Rehearsal	21 10:00a Phoebe Circle 6:00p Men's Basketball	22 9:45a Preschool Celebration 2-day 10:00a Comfort Squad	23
24 Pentecost Sunday 9:00a OSYM for Kids 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee & Conversation 4p Men's Basketball	25 Memorial Day - Office Closed	26	27 10:00a Men's Fellowship 5:00p Choir Rehearsal	28 5:30p Church Council 6:00p Men's Basketball	29	30
31 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee & Conversation 4p Men's Basketball						

“Happy Birthday to you ...”

- 1 Dani Hall
- 4 Jackson Grant
- 6 Geri Elefson
- 9 June Peterson
- 11 Mary Fox
- 14 Steve Moore
- 15 Ken Casperson
- 21 Jim Kjargaard
- 24 Dee Daves

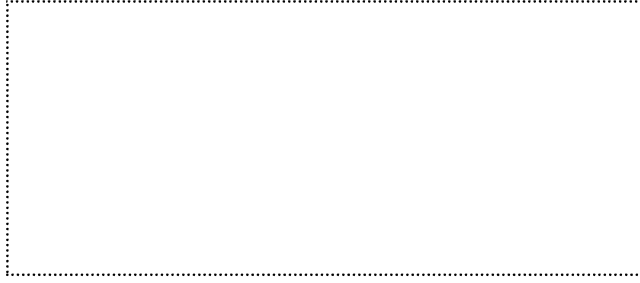


“Happy Anniversary!”

- 6 Tom & Michelle Settimo
- 22 Frank and Ruth Gonzales



☺ **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
Share Your
FAITH
With Others....



The Messenger
May 2026
A Monthly Publication of
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
615 E Highland Dr
Arlington WA 98223-0333



Our purpose: *Celebrate, cultivate and share God's love.*
Our values: *Welcoming, Compassion, Serving, Respect*