



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

The Messenger

Our Values

Welcoming
Compassion
Serving
Respect



Inside this issue:

1. Current Events
2. From the Pastor
3. News from Ministry Teams
- 4.-6. Stillaguamish Conference Corner News
7. Childcare & Preschool News
8. Message from the Bishop
9. Financial Report, Worship Attendance & Servers
10. 2025 Council Members & Staff, Prayers
11. Calendar & Celebrations
12. Cover



Advent Soup Suppers & midweek worship will be held on the Wednesday evenings of December 3rd, 10th and 17th.

The Soup suppers will be held from 5:30-6:15p.m. All are invited to attend these simple and casual dinners.

Holden Evening Prayer will be held from 6:30-7:00p.m. Plan to attend this time of food, fellowship, and worship. If you would like to provide soup, cheese or bread, please see the sign-up sheet that is on the bulletin board in the hallway to the Gym. Thank you.

Christmas Schedule

- ♦ **Our Saviour's Choir** will present their Christmas concert on Sunday, December 14nd, during the 10:00a.m. worship gathering.
- ♦ **Christmas Eve** (Wednesday, December 24th) at 4:00p.m. we will offer a Candlelight worship service which will include the singing of carols and a children's message.

Note: There will be no worship service on Christmas Day.

Holiday Baskets - On behalf of the families who received Thanksgiving Baskets – THANK YOU! Words cannot begin to express what this gift meant to these families. Thank you for your generous donations to help make this possible for these families. I am proud of my church family and our generous spirit.

We are switching gears and getting ready to provide Christmas Baskets to these same families. A list of food items is up in the gym. Please consider how you may be able to help with the Christmas baskets. Wish lists for gifts are also up in the gym. Please return the gifts wrapped or in a gift bag with the tag attached.

All gifts and food items need to be returned to the church by Wednesday, December 17th for delivery by Christmas eve. There is a bin next to the kitchen for non-perishable items and room in the fridge for perishable items. Items may also be placed in the freezer if needed. Gifts may be placed in the old chapel.

Thank you again for your generosity and care for these families in need. If you have any questions, please see Jennifer Ess.

From the Pastor



The season of Advent
means there is something on the horizon
the like of which we have never seen before.
It is not possible to keep it from coming, because it will.

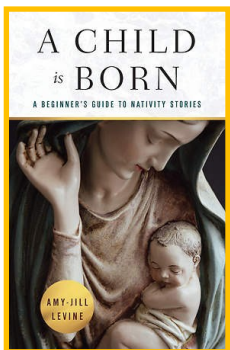
That's just how Advent works.
What is possible is to not see it, to miss it,
to turn just as it brushes past you....
So stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry.
Ponder. Wait. Behold. Wonder.
There will be time enough for running.
For rushing. For worrying. For pushing.
For now, stay.
Wait.

Something is on the horizon.¹

Jan L. Richardson, *Night Visions: Searching the Shadows of Advent and Christmas* (Cleveland: United Church Press, 1998).

¹ Chandler, Paul-Gordon. [*Songs in Waiting: Spiritual Reflections on Christ's Birth*](#). Morehouse Publishing, 2009, p. xi.

Peace,
Pastor John Schraan



Join Pastor John on Sundays at 9:00am in the classroom: **A Child Is Born A Beginner's Guide to Nativity Stories.** Author Amy Jill-Levine. Discover the fascinating connections between ancient birth stories and the Nativity of Jesus in this captivating four-week Advent study. Classes start January 11th. Order your book soon! 1/11: The Conception & Birth of Isaac and Ishmael, 1/18: The Conception & Birth of Samson, 1/25: The Conception and Birth of Samuel, 2/1: Jesus: Heir to Traditions.

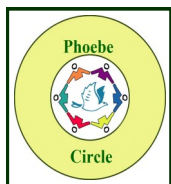


Mission Circle is donating 4 quilts to families for the Christmas baskets. Come join us on Tuesday mornings, December 2nd and 16th at 9 a.m. in the modular. We tie quilts, bundle baby care kits, have a coffee break and of course have lots of good conversation. We also wish to express our gratitude for all the donations for school kits, baby items, fabric and your \$\$\$\$. Many thanks for our congregation's generosity. Contact Beth Husted or church office for more information.



Men's Coffee Fellowship will meet here at the church on Wednesday, Dec. 10th at 10am.

We will exchange stories, drink some java, and eat some pastries. For more information, please contact Jim Kjargaard or church office. (2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month)



Phoebe Circle is a bible study group for women that meets on the third Thursday of the month. Phoebe Circle will meet on Thursday December 18th @ 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, Sally Shinstrom, or church office.

Meal Project: This project is now administered through the **Volunteers of America**. OSLC will provide "Grab and Go" meals on December 16th. Sharon Billdt, Barb Chamberlin and Beth & Greg Husted will prepare the meals. The meals will be delivered to the **Arlington Community Resource Center**.



Comfort Squad is for those who are grieving no matter the reason. Our purpose is to offer support while we navigate the grieving process.

Comfort Squad meets a week earlier this month on Friday December 19th at 10:00am in the classroom. Contact Jan Hopson for more information at 808-756-5226.

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 at church from 9am to 2pm Monday to these items Thursday and I will take them to the Arlington Community Resource Center. For questions or more suggestions on how you can help please contact Bob Zerbel or church office. Thank you.



Josephine Christmas Gift Giving

Tree: Thank you for your ongoing support of Josephine and our residents especially during the upcoming Christmas season. Please consider selecting a tag from the tree in the Narthex and purchasing the listed gifts. We ask that you return your gift to Our Saviour's, no later than Tuesday, December 9th. 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 or church office. Peace be with you.



Come listen and support Laurie Breon in **Sonus Boreal's Starlight & Fire Glow** on December 20th at 2:00pm. Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7215 51st Ave NE, Marysville, WA. Tickets available at the door. General admission \$15.00, Discounts for Senior 65+, Military, Groups of 3+, Children 12-18, 11 under free.



The Preschool Christmas Programs will be held

Wednesday December 17th at 9:30am, and Friday December 19th at 9:45am. Each class will be

performing songs and poems for their families. The congregation is welcome to attend.

Stillaguamish Conference

Stillaguamish Conference Ministry Gathering

On Saturday, November 15, thirty people from the various congregations of the Stillaguamish Conference got together to make connections with others who are volunteering in the same areas of service. Groups that were represented included Church Council, Cemetery, Finances, Facilities, Altar Guild, Outreach, Quilting/LWR, Music, and Men's Ministry. The opportunity to share ideas and concerns was well received, as was the possibility of meeting and expanding to additional ministries in the future! Contact information was shared so that these groups can continue their discussions. If you wish to be included in an email list for any of these groups, please see one of the Lay Leaders for your congregation.

Thanks to all the OSLC members who gathered with me at this event!!

Greg Husted





DECEMBER 2025 -- www.northcountychurches.org

The NW Washington Synod are the congregations, people & ministries of the Pacific Northwest - journeying together. Learn more, get connected, and partner with others as we are the Body of Christ on this territory.

Journeying Together -- Our synod extends from the Canadian border in the north to Kent in the south, and from the Cascade foothills out into the islands of the Puget Sound. www.lutheransnw.org - an online resource for classes, events, ministries, related to ALL Northwest Synod congregations.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

****SKY (Snohomish-King Youth) group.** YOUTH (grade 6-12) ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. The SKY group meets the first Sunday of the month and rotates around various churches.

Contact ANY of the Pastors or Church Offices for date and location of the next meeting.

Sunday School Programs – Please contact individual churches for exact times and specifics.

STUDIES ** FELLOWSHIP ** CONVERSATION

Men's Spirituality – Illuman of WA. Meets the third Saturday of the month. Contact Bill Hogland at (425) 501-4112. IllumanofWA.org [Faith Lutheran/Lakewood](#)

Men's Coffee & Conversation(2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month). contact Jim Kjargaard or the church office. [Our Saviour's/Arlington](#)

Men's Breakfast Study meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month [Peace Lutheran/Silvana](#)

Women's Bible Study – 2nd Thursday of the month. 12:30 – 2:30 pm

[Camano Lutheran/Camano](#)

Phoebe Circle – Women bible study group meets the third Thursday of the month. Contact Sally Shinstrom. [Our Saviour's/Arlington](#)

Adult Bible Study – Wednesdays at 1:00 pm

[Faith Lutheran/Lakewood](#)

Samplings with Luther – 7:00 pm second and fourth Monday of every month. Men & women meet at Pub 282 (Camano Island) to discuss issues & topics relevant to day-to-day life

[Camano Lutheran/Camano](#)

Coffee & Conversation - Wednesdays at 1pm. This is a social group open to anyone. Bring your favorite non-alcoholic beverage, new and different topics every week.

[Bethlehem/Marysville](#)

MISSIONS ** MINISTRIES ** OUTREACH ** SUPPORT

Grab and Go Meals – At the Arlington Community Resource Center

[Our Saviour's/Arlington](#)

LWR Quilters - 4th Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am. BYO lunch

[Peace Lutheran/Silvana](#)

LWR Quilters – Monday morning in the Pioneer Hall at 9:00 am.

[Camano Lutheran /Camano](#)

LWR Quilters - First Tuesday of every month at 9:00 am

[Bethlehem/Marysville](#)

OSLC Mission Circle Quilting Group

[Our Saviour's/Arlington](#)

Sunday Supper at BLC - coalition of churches and volunteers with a shared purpose of helping those who need it most. Services are free and open to everyone, every Sunday at times specified below.

HOT MEAL --- 3-4 PM

SHOWER --- 2-6 PM

LAUNDRY --- 2-6 PM

Bethlehem/Marysville

Comfort Squad - Contact Jan Hopson or church office for more information.

Our Saviour's/Arlington

Bereavement Support - group for anyone grieving loss of any kind. 3rd Monday of the month. All are welcome. Contact Linda Leque at (907) 500-8706

Camano Lutheran/Camano

Parkinsons Support Group Parkinsons support group for those recently diagnosed or long time patients. The goal of the group is to share experiences and connect. Contact Jean Oien: (360) 926-2887

Peace Lutheran/Silvana

TOPS – For 75 years, TOPS Club has helped people take off, and keep off, the weight, doing things by the book such as healthy living from the inside, out. Every Thursday – 8:00 am

Camano Lutheran/Camano

Faith Lutheran makes a big mission impact through their partnership with LINC NW. Continue to read this newsletter for information about upcoming events sponsored in conjunction with LINC NW.

MISCELLANEOUS FUN & EVENTS

Book Club - Contact Peace Silvana 360-652-8739

Peace Lutheran/Silvana

Christmas Concert- Our Saviour's Choir

Our Saviour's/Arlington

Sunday December 21st at 10:00am

On November 15, approximately 40 members from our Conference congregations gathered at Peace Lutheran Church to exchange ideas, thoughts, and solutions on the challenges each of our congregations is facing. This was an informal get-together that seemed to be very beneficial for all who attended! The common theme heard over and over again....it seems like we ALL have some of the same challenges, but more importantly.....**THERE WAS AN OVERWHELMING DESIRE TO CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION WITH MORE EVENTS LIKE THIS!**

So be on the lookout for another similar event in the coming year! It would be great to have **ALL** of the various Ministry Teams represented to share your ideas!



Past or current members of a ministry team or those interested in learning about being on a ministry team, contact your Conference Lay Leader for more information.

CHILDCARE NEWS

by Melissa Hackworth, Program Supervisor

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
From the Staff of Our Saviour's Childcare:

Bev Curtis
Melissa Hackworth
Vicky Wesson
Chantal Glaze
Kristen Holloran
Ariana Badger
Marisa Delaune

PRESCHOOL NEWS

by Jenn Ess, Director/Teacher

November is always a quick month for preschool – between Thanksgiving Break and Veteran's Day it feels like we do not get to see our students very much! We are also busy preparing for our Christmas programs, making gifts for our families, and making decorations for our classroom.

Both classes had a fun Team Colors day, a tradition that started in honor of the Apple Cup. Everyone wore their favorite team colors – we had lots of Seahawks, Huskies, Cougars, and a few students wore their own team jerseys! The students, and teachers, always have fun on our dress up days.

The 3 Day class had a dance party and made whipped cream to share with their families for Thanksgiving. The 2 Day class celebrated with a Thankful Feast and shared a meal with family and friends. Both classes made placemats to use on Thanksgiving – complete with what they were thankful for!

Our Christmas Programs are coming up on December 17th at 9:30 and December 19th at 9:45. Our students will be performing songs and poem, along with a re-telling of the Nativity. Please join us if you are able.

The preschool has much to be thankful for this year – our amazing team of teachers who work so hard to make this school a special place for the students. The children and their families who call Our Saviour's Preschool home. We are thankful for the continued support of the congregation and the Learning Center Board. Thank you for all you do to support the Our Saviour's Preschool team, the students, and their families.

3-Day Class



We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving

Jennifer Ess - Preschool Director
Anna Lundgren – 3 Day Teacher
Aura James – 2 Day Teacher/3 Day
Teacher Assistant
Melissa Staffenhagen – 5 Day
Teacher Assistant

2-Day Class



From the December Edition of The Spirit | lutheransnw.org/publications

December 2025



From the Bishop:

Have you ever paused to consider how the Christmas story includes the very sordid tale of an engaged young woman who, to all appearances, was unfaithful to her fiancé? While we often sing about the hope and joy of this child (we know who this child is after all!), those in the middle of it all, heartache abounded. Joseph wondered who the father of this child truly was. Mary's parents feared for her reputation and her future. And Mary? Mary did not walk through any of this untouched by pain. What a miserable, tangled mess. Poor Joseph. Poor Mary. And what a precarious, almost unthinkable situation for God to choose to be the way of coming into the world.

And perhaps this is why we love this story so deeply. Because God coming to the world as a baby, God becoming flesh – incarnate – becoming human, was never meant to only be miraculous and beautiful and amazing. It was never merely a night where angels sang and shepherds worshiped. It was never simply about a couple who accepted and embraced this new thing without thought or questions or fear.

No. In this story of incarnation we are given truth. The truth that life is sometimes difficult, sometimes hard. The truth that in this world there is confusion and fear and brokenness and messiness. Though no angel has come to interrupt our lives with such extraordinary news, every one of us knows frustration and grief and those heavy, unspoken things that keep us awake at night. And so, this story is not only something we know – it's a story that knows us.

If you have a Bible handy (or a Bible app), I invite you to open it up to Matthew 1 and read the genealogy listed there. At first glance, it reads like a list of heroes. But if we scratch the surface, there is a more complicated truth of who these people were. Abraham nearly sacrificed his son. Jacob cheated his brother out of his birthright. David arranged a man's murder to prevent a scandal. And then there's all those women listed – Bathsheba, Rahab, Ruth – whose stories, or at least the way they have been remembered, are filled with struggle, tragedy, or suspicion.

But here's the thing. We know that God was with every one of those men and women, as broken as they were, as much fear or anxiety they might have had, as messy as their lives were, as complicated as the world was. God worked through their lives in the midst of it all. We know that Abraham's son Isaac was not sacrificed, a ram was provided. Rahab saved God's people. Ruth became the ancestor of kings. And above all these stories, we have the Christmas story – truly the whole Jesus story.

We know, through all these stories, that God comes and is incarnate in the lives of messy, complicated people. We know that the Spirit is always moving through broken places to bring wholeness and new life. Always, always God comes – even when all seems hopeless or chaotic.

So, perhaps now, in this time, when so much seems to be fraught and unknown, so much seems to be uncertain or just plain bad, when we aren't sure what is next or what choice is best, we hear the Christmas story anew. And, in hearing it, may we trust that God is here, always, in our stories and in our lives.

Today we live in expectation. Today, we hope and trust, even in our messiness, that God comes to us, holds us, and loves us. Today we hold onto the promises that God is with us – incarnate in Jesus – and together we have the promise of a world made new through Jesus Christ, bringing true peace to this world. And, until then, we pray, come, Lord Jesus, come!

Blessed Advent and Christmas,

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee
bishop@lutheransnw.org

Financial Report for October 2025:	Monthly Budget	October 2025	Year-to-Date
Income	\$27,813.50	\$28,706.76	\$91,534.96
Expenses	\$27,801.25	\$25,048.02	\$106,460.42
Net Income	\$12.25	\$3,658.74	\$-14,925.46

The budget year runs from July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

Worship Attendance for November 2025

	In person	Online
2 nd	58	53
9 th	68	78
16 th	70	145
23 rd	62	60
30 th		

Thank you for giving to Our Saviour's!

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

give thanks
to the LORD,
for he is good;
his LOVE endures
forever.

PSALM 107 1



December Worship Servers

	7	14	21	24	28
Communion Assistants	Judy Donoghue Peggy Shortt	Rohde Family	Burke & Judy Phillips	No Communion	Jan Hopson Nancy Yonker
Lectors	Jennifer Ess	Kathy Kjargaard	Steve Baylor	Carol Lindenmuth	Judy Donoghue
Ushers/ Hosts	Hart Family	Allen & Darcy Larson	Steve & Robin Barker	Lisa Masters	Steve & Liz Moore
Flowers	Allen & Darcy Larson		Laurie Breon		Nancy Yonker
Teller/s					
Audio/Video Booth Techs	Max Maxwell Darcy Larson	Max Maxwell Sally Shinstrom	Max Maxwell Sally Shinstrom		Max Maxwell Sally Shinstrom
Coffee Hour		Choir			
Lock Up	Jan Hopson		Jan Hopson		Judy Donoghue

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 6:00p Scout Troop 92	2 9:00a Mission Circle	3 5:30p Advent Soup Supper 6:30p Worship	4 6:00p Basketball	5	6 1pm Birthday Party
7 9:00a Adult Class 9:00a OSYM for Kids 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee & Conversation 4p Basketball	8 6:00p Scout Troop 92	9	10 10:00a Men's Coffee Fellowship 5:30p Advent Soup Supper 6:30p Worship	11 6:00p Basketball	12	13
14 9:00a OSYM for Kids 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee & Conversation 4p Basketball	15 6:00p Scout Troop 92	16 9:00a Mission Circle	17 10:00a Preschool Winter Program 5:30p Advent Soup Supper 6:30p Worship	18 10:00a Phoebe Circle 6:00p Basketball 7:00p Learning Board Center Mtg	19 10:00a Comfort Squad 10:00a Preschool Winter Program	20
21 9:00a OSYM for Kids 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee & Conversation 4p Basketball	22 6:00p Scout Troop 92	23	24 Christmas Eve 4p Candlelight worship	25 Christmas Day No worship service Office Closed	26	27
28	29 6:00p Scout Troop 92	30	31 New Year's Eve			

"Happy Birthday to you ..."

6 Laura Kellogg
12 Kristin Baylor
12 Carl Moll
13 Kyle Hart
13 Ashley Monty
22 Ronica Davenport
24 Jason Williams
27 Fiona Grant
27 Lyle Kellogg
29 Nancy Yonker

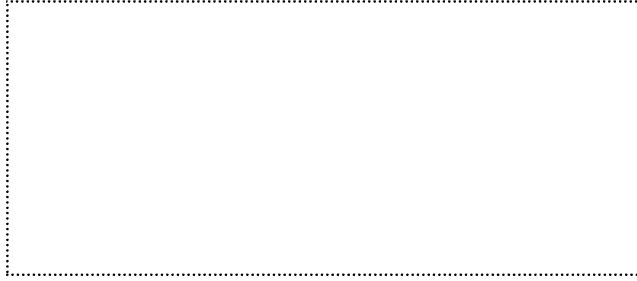


☺ **Did we forget you?** If your special date is not listed here, first, forgive us! Then, call the office so that we can update our database. Thanks!

Happy Anniversary!

16 Lowell & Kathy Stuehrenberg
17 Howard & Sharon Knoepfle
20 Byron & Lynnette Scott





Share Your
FAITH
with Others....
Show Love

The Messenger
December 2025
A Monthly Publication of
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Our Purpose: Celebrate, cultivate and share God's love.
Our Values: Welcoming, Compassion, Serving, Respect.