

The Messenger

Our Values

Welcoming
Compassion
Serving
Respect

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HEY 12's - while you are cheering on our team - let's help tackle hunger!

From now until the final whistle, Team Northwest Washington Synod and Team New England Synod will seek to

out donate one another for the sake of our neighbors. The fans that donate the most to ELCA World Hunger through their team page **by Feb 8 at 10pm** will help their synod take home the title of ELCA World Hunger Champion — regardless of the outcome on the field. (As of 12noon today, we are ahead in the giving by over \$1000 - let's keep it up!)

Support Team NW Washington here: <https://give.elca.org/page/93479/donate/1>

(or support Team New England here: <https://give.elca.org/page/93480/donate/1>)

Celebration of 2025 Ministry & Annual Congregational Meeting was held Sunday February 1st in the Gym following the morning service. The meeting included a review of 2025 ministry at Our Saviour's, the election of leaders for 2026 and the vote for the 2026 OSLC Budget. Outgoing council members are Jan Hopson & Peggy Shortt. Continuing members are Kevin Ess, Jamie Smith, Judy Donoghue, Debra Isler & Alyce Riddle. New members are Carol Lindenmuth, Kyle Hart & Tom Rohde. The 2026 Budget was passed with 48 yes, 1 no & 1 abstain votes.



New Member Sunday, February 15th. Connect with Pastor John for details.



Shrove Tuesday, February 17th Pancake Feed, games & activities! 5:30pm-6:30pm! Food & helper sign up sheet is in the hallway to the gym.

Ash Wednesday worship services are on February 18th at Peace Lutheran at 2:00pm & Camano Lutheran at 7pm.

Save the Date! Good Friday Worship April 3: Bethlehem Lutheran in Marysville at 12 Noon, Our Saviour's Lutheran, here at 7pm.

Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers are on Wednesday February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25 at 5:30p.m. 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 Lent Worship Evenings:** 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, & 3/25 at 6:30pm following soup suppers. Join us!

From the Pastor

Soon it will be Valentine's Day, a day dedicated to love.

The Gospel of John brims with God's love for Jesus and for the whole created world. Here are a few verses from John 3.

¹⁶ *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."*

¹⁷ *"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."*

As the rest of John unfolds, we will see what this looks like as we are introduced to a variety of different people. Jesus will offer teaching which will either be put into practice or dismissed. In John 3, Nicodemus is baffled as he comes to Jesus by night and slinks away shaking his head. By contrast, a Samaritan woman meets Jesus at noon by the well. After her encounter, she immediately becomes an evangelist sharing her experience and soon others are drawn to Jesus.

Love is the hallmark of this new community as Jesus instructs his disciples and washes their feet. Love is the new commandment. Love marks the new community as love mirrors God's love as shown through Jesus. Love in John is a verb. Love is action. Jesus takes into his hands the feet his own betrayer's and washes them. This is a costly love.

Can the love celebrated on Valentine's endure once the chocolate and wine run out?

Katie Bowler writes this brief blessing:

God, you told us what love looks like.

To *welcome* the stranger.

To *shelter* the sojourner.

To marry justice with *mercy*.

But today our streets are filled with fear.

People are being pulled from their homes and workplaces and families.

Without due process.

Without compassion.

Our immigrant neighbors are terrified.

And we feel powerless to stop it.

Give us courage.

Show us what to do next.

Bless our helplessness and transform it into acts of mercy.

Move us from heartbreak to generosity.

And interrupt our silence with the memory that *your son was once a refugee too*.

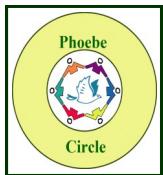
Show us how love *does not look away*.



Mission Circle - We will meet on Feb. 3rd & 17th 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 the church office.



Men's Coffee Fellowship will meet here at the church on Wednesday, Feb. 11th & 25th at 10am. We will exchange stories, drink some java, and eat some pastries. For more information, please contact Jim Kjargaard.



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, February 19th at 10:00am in the classroom at OSLC. Bring your bible and copy of "Gather" if you have it. If not, we share! We are reading the Bible study "Now let us pray" by Liv Larson Andrew (Session two). Phoebe Circle is always welcoming to new people. If you have any questions, contact the church office.



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 on Friday, February 27th at 10:00am in the classroom. Contact Jan Hopson for more information or 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 oatmeal, fruit cups, bottled water, granola bars, 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 Bob will take them to the Arlington Community Resource Center. For questions or more suggestions on how you can help please call 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 Feb. 17th. Lyle & Laura Kellogg will prepare the meals. The meals will be delivered to the **Arlington Community Resource Center**.

Year-End Giving Statements for 2025 was delivered by email instead of paper copies by the end of January. Please be sure that the church office has your correct email address. For questions, please contact Sharon Knoepfle and add to your address book: financialsecretary@arlingtonwachurch.org

Giving of Tithes and Offerings - Gifts may be made using Simply Giving, your bank's online payment system, mailed to the church or by using the QR code.



NWWA Synod Events



Mystics and Mysticism: Practicing Faith in the Wilderness

Join LiVE weekly for our 6-part Lenten course as we journey with a variety of Christian mystics who encountered God in the depths of solitude, silence, and struggle.

Through Scripture, contemplative practices, and the voices of mystics across time, participants will engage the wilderness as a sacred space for transformation and deeper trust in God. This journey invites leaders to discover how mystical wisdom can shape faithful living in uncertain times.

[Register Here for Lenten Course](#)



A FREE gathering for lay and rostered leaders seeking to find creative ways to share the story of Jesus with their neighbors through word and action. Please join us for one of these Saturday morning workshops - select the date or location that best works for you - and bring a friend!

There is no cost - but we ask that you register and plan to bring a non-perishable food item for a food pantry or donate to the NWWA Synod's New, Emerging & Strategic Ministry Fund (<https://www.lutheransnw.org/give> - click give online now, select Emerging and Strategic Ministries from the drop down. THANK YOU!)

FEBRUARY 28, 2026

- Our Savior's Lutheran Church - 215 W Mukilteo Blvd in Everett
 - coffee and treats at 8:30am

[Register HERE](#)



YOU'RE INVITED

Join us February 7th for our Annual Meeting at the Lutherwood Dining Hall as we give thanks for 2025 and look toward 2026. Refreshments begin at 9am, with the meeting commencing at 10am! Location: 1185 Roy Rd., Bellingham, WA 98229



Elementary Retreat

Save the Date for March 20-21, 2026

We welcome Elementary school-age campers and their caregivers for our one-night retreat at Lutherwood! 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 preview of our Summer 2026 theme, "Wear Love!"

When: Friday, March 20 to Saturday, March 21, 2026 (6:00 pm to 6:00 pm)

Who: K-6th graders (Elementary schoolers) and their caregivers (K-1st grade are required to have one parent in attendance, and other adults are welcome) and Youth Leaders

Cost: \$70 for youth, \$50 for adults (checks accepted; please contact your youth leader or bring a check with you when you check in). Parents: If you have questions, please email Ashleigh Ellsworth-Keller, Program Director at ashleigh.ek@camplutherwood.org.

CHILDCARE NEWS*by Melissa Hackworth, Program Supervisor*

February already! The start of the new year is already flying by! Our 2 ½-5 yr. old children have been learning about Ice and Snow, Animals in Winter and Hibernating Animals while patiently waiting for some snow to play in!

The Childcare staff will all be renewing their CPR and First Aid skills this month along with Bloodborne Pathogens training. CPR and First Aid are renewed every 2 years, and Bloodborne Pathogens is annually. We are looking forward to updating our skills!

On Friday, Feb. 13 we will be having our Valentine's Day Parties. Each class has snacks and exchange Valentine cards. The parties are in the afternoon, and we would love to have volunteers! If you would like to join in the fun, please let us know!

**PRESCHOOL NEWS***by Jennifer Ess, Director*

January is always a fun but LONG month for the preschool – returning to the routine of preschool after a 2 week break for Christmas, hearing what the families did, and seeing how much they have grown since we saw them last! We also spend some time reviewing classroom routines.

Our first days back were pajama days for the children (and teachers). Children were also able to bring a favorite stuffed animal to join in the fun! We spent the rest of the month learning about Jesus as a boy, arctic animals – where they live and how they keep warm when it's cold, something would have come in handy! Despite the cold, we have enjoyed the sunshine and have been spending as much time as possible outside on the playground!

February will bring changing the classroom over to learning about dinosaurs, our 5 senses - and connecting them with the miracles of Jesus. We will be celebrating Valentine's Day by exchanging Valentines with our classmates and having a special party. We'll also start chapel time again with Pastor John.

Registration for the 2026/2027 school year will be happening in March – additional information will be coming soon! If you know of anyone looking for a spot in the preschool, please send them our way! We have 3 options available for families – 2 day, 3 day, and a select number of 5 day spaces. The preschool offers half day instruction.





From the February 2026 edition of *The Spirit*

From the Bishop:

If you follow the Revised Common Lectionary, this is the year of Matthew. Matthew's gospel offers a clear vision of the world as God intends through Jesus. It is also a clear mandate for the Church. While I encourage you to read Matthew in its entirety, here are some highlights to catch glimpses of this new world through Jesus:

Matthew 1-2: Matthew begins with a genealogy of Jesus that refuses to be neat or respectable. You see, it includes women who are foreigners, sex workers, and more. Jesus is born to a working-class family that soon become refugees as they flee Herod's murderous plot. The wise men refuse to bow down to Herod's power.

Matthew 3-4: Jesus is baptized, joining with others who are broken and burdened, entering the waters with them. He is then sent into the wilderness where he is tempted to seize power. (He says no!) Then his public ministry begins as he calls fishermen – ordinary laborers – to follow him.

Matthew 5-7: The Sermon on the Mount. Jesus blesses the poor in spirit, the meek, those who grieve. Righteousness is defined not by power or coercion but by mercy, reconciliation, and love – even love of enemies. Jesus teaches his disciples (and us!) to pray – emphasizing that God will provide each day, that we are not to be anxious, that we are not to hoard or judge but instead love and live in mutual care for one another.

Matthew 8-10: Jesus' teachings take on flesh as he heals a leper, a centurion's servant, Peter's mother-in-law, a paralytic, a hemorrhaging woman, and those who cannot hear or see. He eats with sinners, calls a tax collector, and restores people who have been pushed to the margins. He calms a storm for his scared disciples and sends them out to minister – without money or power – to also heal and restore.

Matthew 11-16: Jesus clarifies his mission by naming it plainly: healing, liberation, and good news to the poor. Human need is prioritized over religious rules. His parables lift up small, hidden things that the world overlooks. He feeds hungry crowds (5000!), challenges exclusion, and reminds his followers that being the Messiah means suffering service, not triumph.

Matthew 17-20: Jesus welcomes children and even places one at the center, calling them great in the kingdom of heaven. He warns leaders against harming the vulnerable. He tells a rich young man that true discipleship is not about the love of money. And to the chagrin of all, he tells a parable about workers where economic fairness is not tied to productivity or worthiness.

Matthew 21-25: Jesus enters Jerusalem. He comes on a donkey (not a military parade!). He overturns tables in the temple condemning its exploitation, and he heals those without power inside its walls. He condemns leaders who prey on others and he tells parables that insist on welcome, generosity, and care for the least. He makes it unmistakably clear: when you feed, clothe, welcome, and visit the stranger, you are doing so to him.

Matthew 26-27: Jesus is anointed by an unnamed woman. He is arrested, put on trial by the empire, and executed as a criminal of the state. His embodiment of God's reign inevitably brings him into direct conflict with the powers of the world.

This could be the end. But there is one more chapter.

Matthew 28: This chapter proclaims that death does not have the final word. God brings life where there was death. The women are entrusted to proclaim the good news. And the Church is formed – not to retreat from the world, but to continue Jesus' mission of manifesting God's presence in the world where children are valued, outcasts are accepted, enemies are loved, foreigners are embraced, and all people are treated in love and mercy.

This vision is Matthew's Gospel. And today, in the midst of everything, in spite of everything, it is still unfolding.

Month	Actual Giving	Budget Goal	Difference	Actual Expenses
December	\$*	\$ *	\$ *	\$ *
Y.T.D. (July-Dec.)	\$ *	\$ *	\$ *	\$ *

The budget year runs from Jan. 1, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2026

*not available at time of printing

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

**GIVE THANKS
to the LORD,
FOR HE IS GOOD;
HIS LOVE endures
forever.**
PSALM 107:1

Worship Attendance for January 2026

In person Online

4th:	55	65
11th:	69	70
18th:	76	60
25th:	66	61

February Worship Servers

	1	8	15	22
Audio/Video Booth Techs	Max Maxwell Sally Shinstrom	Max Maxwell Kathy Thordarson	Max Maxwell Greg Husted	Max Maxwell
Lectors	Tom Rohde	Tammy DeWard	Sharon Billdt	Kathy Thordarson
Communion Assistants	Judy Donoghue Peggy Shortt	Judy & Burke Phillips	Jan Hopson Nancy Yonker	Ron & Kathy Thordarson
Flowers	Robin & Steve Barker	Allen & Darcy Larson	Deb Isler	Ellen Winter
Teller/s	Dianne Engelsen Karen Crone	Max Maxwell Sharon Knoepfle	Sharon Knoepfle Dianne Engelsen	Karen Crone Kerry Graves
Ushers/Hosts	Steve & Robin Barker	Allen & Darcy Larson	John & Sharon Billdt	Steve & Liz Moore
Lock Up	Judy Donoghue	Debra Isler	Jamie Smith	Debra Isler
Coffee Hour	Phoebe Circle	Jim & Kathy Kjargaard	Mission Circle	Lisa Masters

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00a Adult Class 9:00a OSYM for Kids 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee & Conversation 4p Basketball	2 6:00p Scout Troop 92	3 9:00a Mission Circle	4 5:00p Choir Rehearsal 6:15 Confirmation	5 6:00p Basketball	6	7 Pack 92 Blue & Gold Banquet 3p-8p
8 9:00a Adult Class 9:00a OSYM for Kids 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee & Conversation 4p Basketball	9 6:00p Scout Troop 92	10	11 10:00a Men's Coffee Fellowship 5:00p Choir Rehearsal 5:15 Confirmation	12 6:00p Basketball	23	14
15 9:00a Adult Class 9:00a OSYM for Kids 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee & Conversation 11:30 Finance Committee Mtg 4p Basketball	16 6:00p Scout Troop 92	17 9:00a Mission Circle 5:30p-6:30p Pancake Feed 7:00p Learning Center Board	18 Ash Weds. 5:00p Choir Rehearsal 5:15 Confirmation 12:00p Worship @ Peace 7:00p Worship @ Camano	15 10:00a Phoebe Circle 5:30 pm Church Council Mtg 6:00p Basketball	20	21
22 9:00a Adult Class 9:00a OSYM for Kids 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee & Conversation 4p Basketball	23 6:00p Scout Troop 92	24	25 10:00a Men's Coffee Fellowship 5:30p Soup Supper 6:30p Lent Worship	26 6:00p Basketball	27 10:00a Comfort Squad	28

"Happy Birthday to you ..."

2 Lincoln Crone
 3 Jay Jodock
 4 Aiden Grant
 5 Carol Duskin
 7 Vickie Campbell
 8 Sharon Billdt
 10 Jenna Villa
 18 Dale Duskin
 19 Ella Larson
 19 Lynda Thomas
 23 Lynne Baylor
 24 Kerry Graves
 26 Sue Andersson

Happy Anniversary!

18 Ron and Kathy Thordarson
 26 Jason and Heidi Ewing
 29 Mike and Lynda Thomas



© 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

Arlington WA 98223-0333

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Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

A Monthly Publication of

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The Messenger

Share Your
Faith

with Others.....



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

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