

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Arlington, WA

www.arlingtonwachurch.org

December 2022



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

Inside this issue:

1. Current Events
2. From the Pastor
3. News from Ministry Teams
4. New Members
5. Childcare & Preschool News
6. Message from the Bishop
7. Financial Report, Worship Attendance & Servers
8. 2022 Council Members & Staff, Prayers
9. Calendar & Celebrations
10. Cover



Advent Soup Suppers & worship will be held on the Wednesday evenings of December 7th and 14th. The Soup suppers will be held from 6:00-6:45p.m.

All are invited to attend these simple and casual dinners. The Holden Evening worship service will be held from 7:00-7:30p.m. Plan to attend this time of food, fellowship, and worship. If you would like to provide soup 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 18th, during the 10:30a.m. worship gathering.
- ♦ **Christmas Eve** (Saturday, December 24th) at 4:00p.m. we will offer a Candlelight worship service which will include the singing of carols, a children's message, and
- ♦ **Christmas Day** 10:30a.m. worship service.

Thanksgiving/Christmas Baskets- Thank you to everyone who helped support our Thanksgiving baskets this year. This is truly a blessing to those who receive the baskets each year. Thanks to your overwhelming generosity all food items needed for a Thanksgiving dinner were collected along with other food items to help our 5 families. We also received turkey donations from Grocery Outlet and Safeway. We were able to save monetary donations and will be using them to help complete Christmas baskets. Ellen delivered one basket, and the remaining four were picked up by the families at the church. Words could not express how thankful these families were.

Christmas dinner donations, and Christmas Wish Lists will be posted in the Gym in the coming days. If you would like to purchase a wish list item, please take a tag as a reminder and return the gift with the tag attached. As always, we are more than happy to do the shopping and wrapping as well if you'd prefer to give cash or check donations. Thank you EVERYONE for all of your support of this important ministry. Any questions, or if you'd like to help wrap gifts or assemble baskets, please let Ellen, Jan, or Jennifer know.





From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you and Happy New Year!

Thank you for extending the call to become your pastor and serve you in this way. I am thankful for the ways you show up here and in our community offering a glimpse of Christ. Thank you for continuing the partnership we have with the Arlington Community Resource Center. Thank you for delivering food so faithfully to the Laundry Project. Thank you for sharing a bit of time with me in your homes and helping me learn more about you and Arlington. Thank you for ongoing work with Josephine. Thank you for valuing our Childcare and Preschool. Thank you for generous and joyous Coffee and Conversation time. Thank you for sharing your voice in worship as we sing songs or liturgy together. Thank you!

Happy New Year!

I am excited to slow down a bit this Advent, at least for a few moments as we begin our services. I hope practicing this change of pace together may make it a bit easier for us to ponder anew what Jesus coming to us might mean for our lives and world. Our overall theme is Reflecting the Sacred, with a focus on Sacred Time, People, Space, Being, and Doing. The readings are drawn from the Revised Common Lectionary, Year A, the year of Matthew. I hope that as the weeks unfold Christ comes to you as that is what Advent is about. Jesus comes not only as a infant in the past, nor only as some day in future to judge the world, but also, especially, here and now, as God with us. A Blessed Advent to you!

Peace,
Pastor John Schraan



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 call the church office 360-435-8921. Thank you.

Our Saviour's gives \$150.00 per month to support the work of the Arlington Food Bank, which will provide Thanksgiving & Christmas baskets for the hungry. This is made possible because of your giving to Our Saviour's. Thank you!

North Snohomish County Outreach (NSCO)

Laundry Project: OSLC will provide "Grab and Go" meals for the Laundry Project on December 20th. Greg & Beth Husted, Sharon Billdt and Geri Elefson 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. 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 is donating 5 quilts to families for the Christmas baskets. Our group uses gently used sheets for our "quilt backs". We would appreciate the donation of any if you are discarding linens. Please drop them off at the church office.



Josephine Christmas Gift Giving Tree. Thanks to all of those who selected a gift tag from the Christmas tree that was in the entryway, all 30 have been taken! Those who selected a gift tag are asked to shop for the requested gifts to make Christmas a special event for one of Josephine's deserving residents. Please return your gift to Our Saviour's, no later than Monday, December 12th to ensure delivery. 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 may share the love of our church. If you have questions, please contact the church office 360-435-8921

Christmas Cards: We will have Christmas Cards available to sign from the congregation for our house-bound members that are not able to attend worship service. We will have them available during coffee hour after worship service on December 11th.

Housing needed-My name is Randy Sehmel. I am reaching out to my fellow Lutheran congregations in search of members who might be renting a furnished room in the Marysville-Arlington-Lake Stevens area. I am semi-retired, amiable, but private, 71-year-old gentleman with a good sense of humor. I do not smoke nor drink, have no pets and simply am looking for a furnished room to call home, cook my meals, and do my laundry there while I come-and-go about my personal business in the Marysville area. I presently can afford \$650 per month, incl. utilities, and have a letter of reference from my current landlords. If you have or know of a furnished room available to rent please contact Randy Sehmel at ikefromyakima@gmail.com or the church office.

CONNECTIONS



HOST HOMES

The Connections Host Homes Program is a short-term housing option for youth who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The goal of a volunteer host home is to provide a safe and welcoming space for up to 21 days while Connections staff work with the youth on basic needs, family reunification, and case management. Host homes receive ongoing support from the Connections program coordinator and a small stipend is available to help offset the costs of hosting. If you live in Snohomish County and want to make an immediate impact in a youth's life, please consider becoming a Connections Host Home!

Use this QR code to read Host Homes FAQ



Email hosthomes@cocoonhouse.org or call 425-737-5419 for more information

Welcome New Members!

In November we had the great joy and privilege of welcoming new members, Claire Carter, Lisa Masters, Jenaha & Travis Hochhalter, and the Smith Family- Keith, Kirstie, Jamie and Katie, to the family at Our Saviour's!

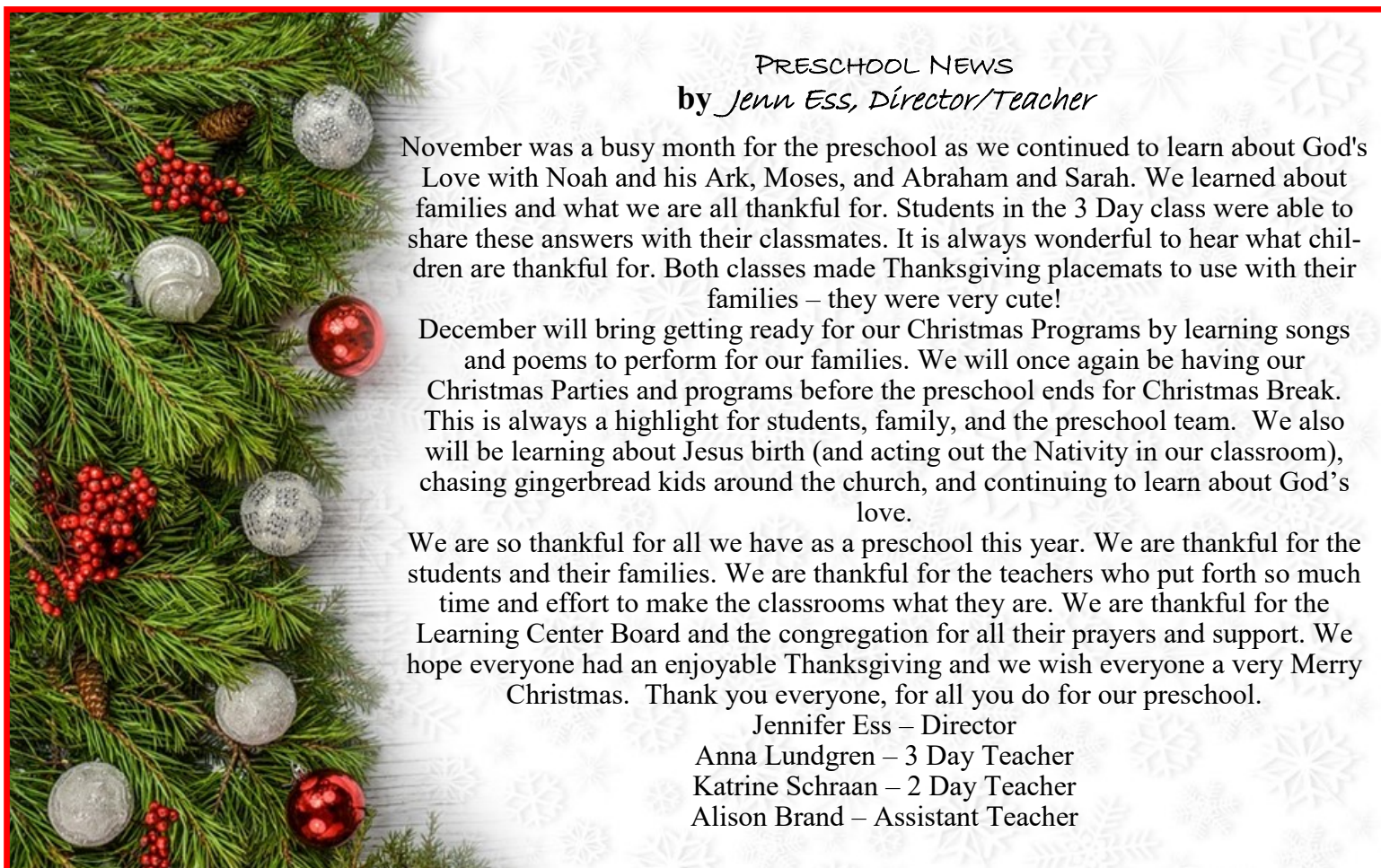




CHILDCARE NEWS
by Melissa Hackworth, Program Supervisor

Merry Christmas!
From the Staff of Our Saviour's Childcare:

Bev Curtis	Melissa Hackworth
Leslie Foster	Tori Hansen
Anita Merritt	Jennifer Conner
Ashley Cruz	Kristin Peterson



PRESCHOOL NEWS
by Jenn Ess, Director/Teacher

November was a busy month for the preschool as we continued to learn about God's Love with Noah and his Ark, Moses, and Abraham and Sarah. We learned about families and what we are all thankful for. Students in the 3 Day class were able to share these answers with their classmates. It is always wonderful to hear what children are thankful for. Both classes made Thanksgiving placemats to use with their families – they were very cute!

December will bring getting ready for our Christmas Programs by learning songs and poems to perform for our families. We will once again be having our Christmas Parties and programs before the preschool ends for Christmas Break. This is always a highlight for students, family, and the preschool team. We also will be learning about Jesus birth (and acting out the Nativity in our classroom), chasing gingerbread kids around the church, and continuing to learn about God's love.

We are so thankful for all we have as a preschool this year. We are thankful for the students and their families. We are thankful for the teachers who put forth so much time and effort to make the classrooms what they are. We are thankful for the Learning Center Board and the congregation for all their prayers and support. We hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. Thank you everyone, for all you do for our preschool.

Jennifer Ess – Director
Anna Lundgren – 3 Day Teacher
Katrine Schraan – 2 Day Teacher
Alison Brand – Assistant Teacher

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

December 2022



From the Bishop:

I took the quilt to the cleaners to get washed. They looked at it and handed it back. If we touch this, they said, it will fall apart.

To most eyes, the quilt is nothing to look at. The bright yellow ducklings have long faded to muted colors. The binding is frayed. Happy, my dog from childhood, chewed holes in the fabric where stuffing came out and repair was never finished. (Happy did this to many sheets and blankets in my growing up years. My sisters and I called them “Happy holes.” My mom did not.)

From the time I was a toddler, this quilt has held my [laughter, tears, secrets, sleep, insomnia, sickness, health, anger. In darkness, this quilt surrounded me in warmth](#). Years later, my children were wrapped in this same quilt.

Long before my grandma quilted my “duckie” blanket and gave it to me, there was a young family without permanent shelter and a baby soon to be born. The village midwives came into the night to help birth a baby for a family unknown. They came to an unhoused couple, a foreign couple, a poor couple with no prospects or power. And yet, these midwives left their warm houses and their own families, bringing their own handmade blankets and strips of cloth as they participated in this baby’s birth. And, when he was born, they wrapped this child and his mom in warmth.

We know this because we hear the angels’ words to the shepherds, “This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” Surely if the baby was wrapped in bands of cloth, the child was also wrapped in blankets.

What a difference it would have been without these blankets, without these swaddling cloths, without these midwives. Without the skills and the gifts God gave to them. The vocation of midwife brought Jesus into the world. The hands and wisdom of these women wrapped him in swaddling cloths.

It is such an amazing story ... through God’s invitation, and from Mary saying yes and Joseph saying yes and the innkeeper saying yes and the midwives saying yes – Jesus came.

Two thousand years ago, in a way no one could have imagined, God was with us in human form. Wrapped in blankets. Held in love.

What love, what grace, what beauty. Amazingly and almost inconceivably, in this little baby, God’s love came and God’s love continues to be among us through Jesus – Immanuel, Incarnate, God-in-the-flesh love. Embodied love ... for you and for me. Always.

I know that life is messy. Life is sometimes hard. Sometimes the world seems out of control and we are so small against so much of what is out there. And yet ... through something as small and vulnerable as a newborn baby, we are promised that God is here. Amongst us. And God’s love is for everyone. Absolutely everyone. Regardless of your job or your political party, your anxiety or your income. Your ethnicity, your language, your gender, your situation in life. God’s love is for you who celebrate this holy day and God’s love is for those who don’t. God’s love is for those you are estranged from and those you embrace.

This Christmas and this year, may you feel surrounded by God’s love and presence. In your laughter, tears, secrets, sleep, insomnia, sickness, health, anger - in darkness and in light may you feel God wrapping you into God’s embrace ... like a worn, faded blanket that is covered in ducks and Happy holes.

Have a Blessed Christmas,
Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



Northwest Washington Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God’s work. Our hands.

Month	Actual Giving	Budget Goal	Difference	Actual Expenses
October	\$21,015.00	\$21,044.12	\$30.88	\$23,179.54
Y.T.D. (July-Oct.)	\$80,476.39	\$84,176.48	\$3,700.09	\$86,710.74

The budget year runs from July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

give thanks
to the **LORD**,
for he is **good**;
His
Love endures
forever.

PSALM 107:1



Worship Attendance for November 2022

	<i>In person</i>	<i>Online</i>
6 th :	60	53
13 th :	64	43
20 th :	73	69
27 th :	62	56

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

December Worship Servers

	4	11	18	25
Communion Assistants	Howard & Sharon Knoepfle			
Lectors	Lyle & Laura Kellogg	Wayne Erickson	Ellyn Erickson	Brad Rambat
Ushers/ Hosts	Steve & Liz Moore	Allen & Darcy Larson	Crone Family	Steve & Robin Barker
Flowers	Judy Phillips	Allen & Darcy Larson	Dee Daves	Steve & Robin Barker
Teller/s	Dianne Engelsen	Max Maxwell	Kathy Thordarson	Sharon Knoepfle
Audio/Video Booth Techs	Henry Schraan Max Maxwell	Ella Larson Jeff Parris	Henry Schraan	
Lock Up	Peggy Shortt	Max Maxwell	Wayne Erickson	Peggy Shortt

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 6:00p Basketball	2	3
4 2 Advent 9:30a Learning Luke-Adults 9:30a OSYM for kids 10:30a Worship 11:45 Coffee & Conversation 4p Basketball	5	6 9:00a Mission Circle 1p-4p ACRC	7 6p Advent Soup Supper 7:00p Worship	8 6:00p Basketball	9	10
11 3 Advent 9:30a Learning Luke-Adults 9:30a OSYM for kids 10:30a Worship 11:45 Coffee & Conversation 4p Basketball	12	13 1p-4p ACRC	14 6p Advent Soup Supper 7:00p Worship	15 6:00p Basketball	16	17
18 4 Advent 9:30a Learning Luke-Adults 9:30a OSYM for kids 10:30a Worship 11:45 Coffee & Conversation 4p Basketball	19	20 1p-4p ACRC	21	22 6:00p Basketball	23	24 Christmas Eve 4:00p Worship
25 Christmas Day 10:30a Worship 4p Basketball	26	27 1p-4p ACRC	28	29 6:00p Basketball	30	31

"Happy Birthday to you ..."

1 Dorothy Rambat
 5 Jeff Parris
 6 Laura Kellogg
 12 Kristin Baylor
 12 Carl Moll
 13 Ashley DeWard
 18 William Swenberg
 19 Karen Highum
 22 Ronica Davenport
 24 Jason Williams
 27 Fiona Grant
 27 Lyle Kellogg
 29 Nancy Yonker



Happy Anniversary!

6 Ryan and Paula Knight
 16 Lowell & Kathy Stuehrenberg
 17 Howard & Sharon Knoepfle
 20 Byron & Lynnette Scott

☺ **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!



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

The Messenger
December 2022

Share Your
FAITH
with Others....
Show Love



December

Our Purpose: Celebrate, cultivate and share God's love.
Our Values: Welcoming, Compassion, Serving, Respect.