



**December 3, 2025**

*Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve All People*

*Prayer of the Week:*

Comfort your people, O God,  
comfort your people.  
Comfort us with a word of hope  
in desolation and despair that has taken root.  
Comfort us with a song of promise  
against the fear masquerading as faith.  
Comfort us with a voice of purpose,  
to speak truth in the maelstrom of lies.  
Comfort us when it all falls apart and we are  
stripped bare and our nerves are frayed.  
Comfort your people, O God,  
comfort your people.  
Amen.

*Bishop Deon K. Johnson, Episcopal Diocese of Missouri*

**New in the pew:** You will notice we now have pew cards welcoming visitors! Please encourage new attendees to fill it out and place in the offering plate so we can connect with them! If you've been worshipping with us for awhile, you'll notice the back of the card has ways you can participate in the life of Saint Andrew's.

## Upcoming Greeters and Coffee Hosts:

*December 7: Mikel Oswalt and Stella Nieman, Greeters;*

*Sherry Grindeland and Gale Baullinger, Coffee hosts*

*December 14: Howard and Judy Johnson, Greeters; Coffee hosts needed!!*

Contact Sherry (sherry@salc.church) to be a Sunday greeter or to Host coffee hour.

Sign up to provide flowers on the Flower Chart in the Narthex.

*Worship is at 10:00 am on Sundays, both in-person and via livestream.*

*Livestream: Visit [salc.church/media](https://salc.church/media) to access the bulletin and livestream link on YouTube. If you have a Google account, we invite you to offer a greeting or comment in the chat window.*

### **Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at Saint Andrews:**

**8:30 AM Adult Education: Bible Study**

**Sunday School (preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grade)**

**10:00 AM Worship in-person in the Sanctuary and livestreamed**

## Readings for December 7

Ezekiel 37:1-14

John 11:17-27

**Tuesday Morning Men:** Every Tuesday at 8:30 AM, this group meets for discussion and prayer via ZOOM.



Join Pastor Lara in the Library or on ZOOM for Bible Study on Tuesdays at 10:00 AM. Email Pastor ([pastor@salc.church](mailto:pastor@salc.church)) for the ZOOM link.

*We welcome Abby Kasper to our staff! She will be assisting with building/event set up ! Her boots are ready to move tables, set up chairs and be so helpful! Welcome, Abby!!*



## *From Pastor Lara:*

Five weeks ago in worship, we began a series of readings from the biblical prophets. Each of them approaches the exile of the Judeans to Babylon from a different physical location and date on that timeline. They implored the Judeans to turn back to God, warning of the consequences if they didn't. And once the exile began, they assured the Judeans that God still loved them and hadn't abandoned them. That their future wouldn't be defined by their present circumstances, but by God.

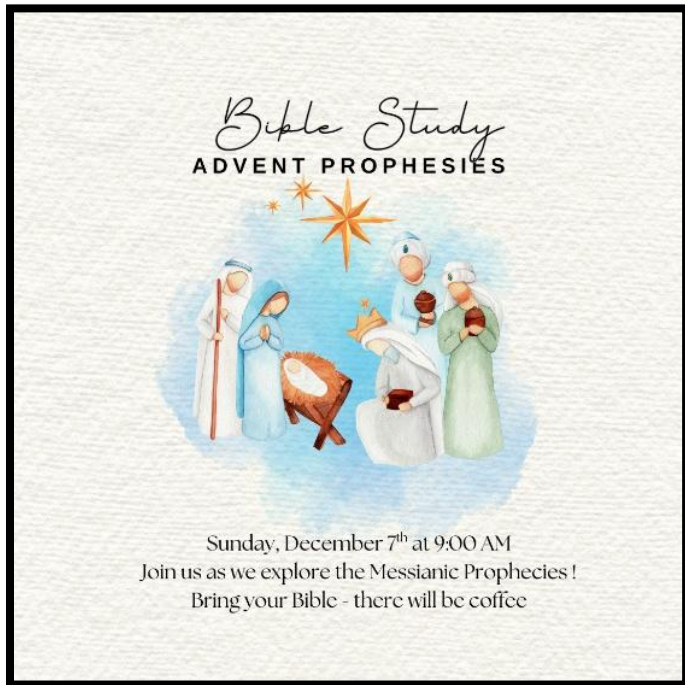
Through the prophets, God gave the people **hope**.

We continue with the prophets and the theme of **hope** into Advent. The readings for the first two Sundays, while familiar, aren't ones that are typically heard in this season. The story of the fiery furnace in Daniel last week, and the story of the dry bones in Ezekiel (coming up this week), don't seem to be relevant to our preparation for Jesus' birth. But they remind us that **hope** isn't an idealistic notion. It enters with us into the reality of a situation, no matter how scary or brutal it is, and stays with us as it moves us forward. **Hope** reminds us that even though the exile had long ended by the time of Jesus' birth, prophets like John the Baptist and Mary, the mother of Jesus, (our readings for weeks 3 and 4) still clung to it as they waited for the Messiah.

**Hope**, ultimately, is what we hold onto during Advent. On the Advent wreath, it's the candle we light first. It's the candle that burns the longest. **Hope** is our posture in this season – we anticipate, we lean forward, actively make preparations, and trust what is to come.

As we embody this posture, we discover that preparing for Jesus' birth goes beyond the comfort of familiar music, traditional foods and customs, and being with our loved ones. We are reminded that the **hope** we have in Jesus is never in vain because it pulls us to a future that we trust is defined by God.

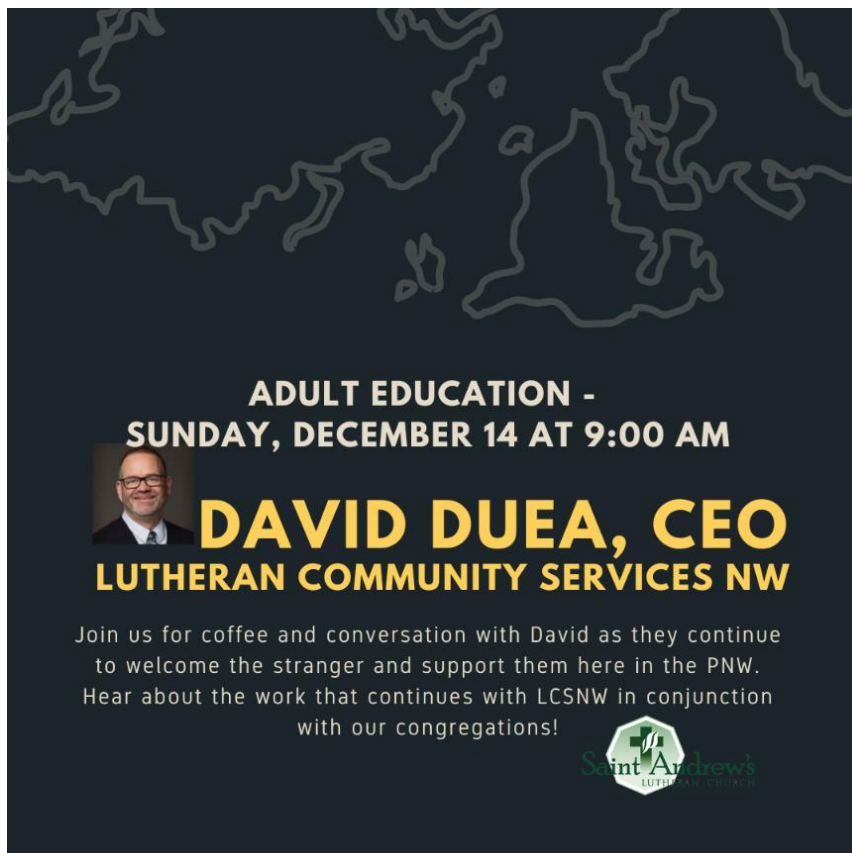




Bible study is coming back **on Sunday, December 6th at 9:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. We will break open the Messianic Prophecies for Jesus birth.

- ♥ How were the people of the Old testament expecting the Messiah to be coming into the world?
- ♥ What did the people in Jesus time expect?
- ♥ How does this fit into our understanding of Jesus as human and God?

Participants will receive a chart showing the top six prophecies and their fulfillment in Scripture. Come and discover and share. Allen Bolen and Cheryl Jurrus will be your facilitators. Bring your Bibles.



We are honored to welcome **David Duea**, CEO of LCSNW to our Adult Forum next Sunday. We will have a short presentation, then be open to questions about the Lutheran Community Services NW and its programs. Plan to attend at 9:00 AM, December 14<sup>th</sup>.





Our *Older, Wiser Lutheran Saints* will have a festive gathering on **Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>** !

We will gather at 11:45 AM, enjoy our potluck lunch\* at 12:00 PM, then Dr. Will will lead us in Christmas Carols!

What's your favorite tune? Be ready to share and sing!!

*\*We are providing the ham, you bring the sides!*



**A hot meal, lots of smiles, full “tummies”, and many THANK YOU!**

The lunch that the Saint Andrew's members donated to Sophia's Place last week was VERY well enjoyed!

Thank you to those who were able to donate in November: Terri Anderson, Jay Baxter, Katrin Bonnofsky, Jan Bowerman, Sarah Cannon, Susie Carney, Nancy Davis, Beth Donahoe, JoAn Eklof, Janell Erickson, Carolyn Ferris, Sherry Grindeland, Teresa Luttermann, Gerdy Mende, Joyce Nelson, Linda Quinn, Linda Willenberg and Jean Wahlstrom, and all of the helpful men, too!

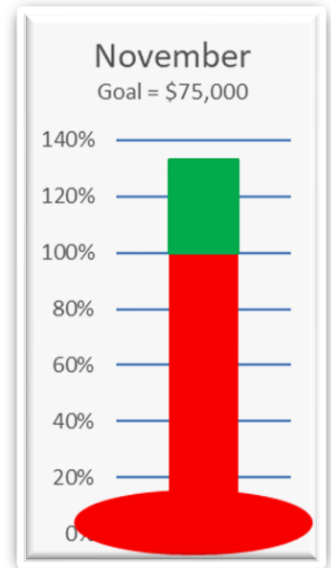
Our next lunch will be provided on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

We have so much to be thankful for! **Join us!**

## Treasurer\$ Note\$

### November Contributions and Goal Achievement

Contributions from all sources in November amounted to **\$99,813**, which represents 133% of the established goal of \$75,000. This impressive achievement was made possible by the generosity of our community, and we extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed.

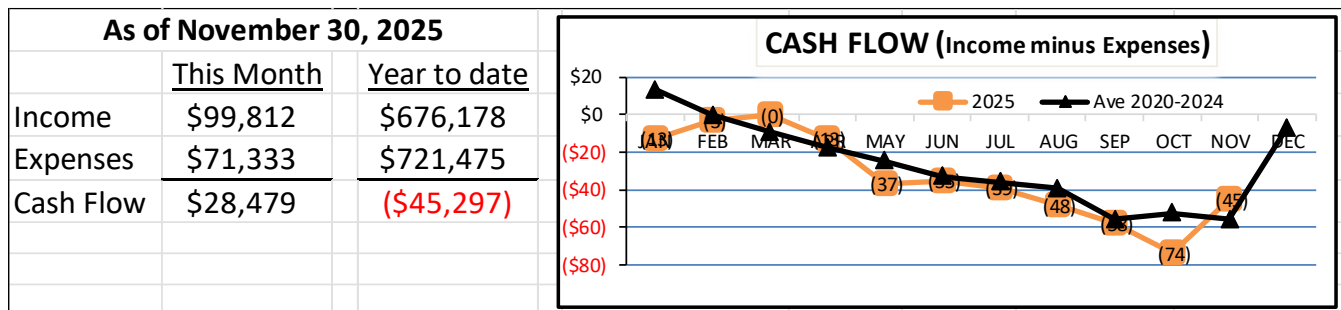


### December Fundraising Goal Adjustment

Since the November goal was significantly exceeded, the fundraising target for December has been adjusted downward. The original goal of \$148,366 has been reduced to \$123,554. A new progress thermometer for December will be displayed next week to help us track our advancement toward this revised goal.

### Financial Outlook for the Remainder of 2025

The generous contributions in November have had a positive impact on our financial outlook. The deficit decreased from \$73,776 in October to \$45,297, as illustrated in the accompanying graphic. To meet our budget objectives and fully eliminate this deficit, it is essential for the Saint Andrew's congregation to raise \$123,554 during December. Reaching this goal is achievable with the ongoing support and generosity of our church community. For context, in December 2024, the congregation received \$138,758 from all sources.



### Giving Options and Contact Information

For those who are eligible, making Qualified Charitable Deductions from retirement accounts can offer tax advantages by reducing taxable income. We encourage everyone to explore this option if it is available to you. If you have questions regarding these financial figures or the overall budget status, please reach out to Treasurer Bill Brueggemann at [Bill@salc.church](mailto:Bill@salc.church).



## Clothing Needed! From October 2025 through February 2026

Dorcas Circle will be collecting men's and women's clothing and toiletries for Compass Housing Alliance in Seattle. There is a 'clothing' bin near the elevator for your donations. **ALL DONATED CLOTHING ITEMS MUST BE NEW, UNWASHED, AND IN UNOPENED ORIGINAL PACKAGING.**

### Women's clothing is most needed in sizes Medium through Extra Large.

- Underwear
- Long sleeve warm shirts
- Sweat pants
- Warm hats
- Warm scarves
- Mittens/gloves

### Men's clothing is most needed in sizes Large and Extra Large.

- Boxer shorts
- White T-shirts
- Long sleeve T- shirts
- Long sleeve warm shirts
- Sweat pants
- Warm hats
- Warm scarves
- Mittens/gloves

## Corner of Blessing Foods of the Month – December

hopelink

Hopelink has asked us to collect **baby items during December**. They are in **desperate need of baby wipes**. They have diapers for their clients but regularly have no wipes. So, their biggest need is baby wipes (and baby food).

So, for December we will be collecting:

- **Baby Wipes**
- **Baby food\* (any kind)**
- **Formula\***



\*(Note: Check the expiration dates. Hopelink is legally required to throw away any expired baby food or formula.)





**Oh what fun!** An intergenerational group of youth and adults provided a Thanksgiving meal for residents of 30 Bellevue. Well done, good and faithful servants!!





**The Advent Fair** was delightful!! Thanks to all who brought Bake Sale items, cookies to decorate (and eat), assisted with crafts, wreath making, Christmas gift tags and packing our 80 no-cook food bags for Hopelink!!







Advent Candles lit,  
Why 2 handed piano when you  
can use 4 hands?



ADVENT  
FAIR AND  
ADVENT 1





## ELCC (Eastside Lutheran Church Community) churches, the Synod and the ELCA:

The Eastside Lutheran Church Community (ELCC) has created a new logo and the website has been updated with events throughout the summer to mark on your calendars!

Be sure to check out the website [HERE](#).

**Advent Wednesdays**  
December 3, 10 & 17

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
8501 SE 40<sup>th</sup> St Mercer Island, WA 98040

5:45-7 PM Soup and Pie  
7-7:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer  
*Worship available in person and livestreamed*

 Sign up for the meal  Livestream (YouTube)

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on Mercer Island** will have mid-week Advent soup suppers and Holden Evening Prayer. If you're planning on attending, please contact Julia ([julia.glassy@htlcmi.org](mailto:julia.glassy@htlcmi.org)) so they have a head count for food.

Music Garden studio Fundraising Concert

# Keys To Your Heart

SHARING LOVE THROUGH MUSIC


Supporting children with special needs through Love Me Ministry locally and Love with Actions globally in Rwanda, Africa


SUGGESTED ENTRY: \$10  
| 12.06.25 | 10:30 AM-12:00PM  
Additional giving is welcome and deeply appreciated  
@ CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

A celebration of light & hope.  
Please join St. Luke's for our 27<sup>th</sup> annual  
**Saint Lucia Celebration**  
with a lunch of Swedish meatballs  
(vegetarian meatballs also served)

Please bring 1 dozen cookies to share. Freewill offering.  
**Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**@ 11:30am**

We welcome children and youth to participate in the maiden & star boy pageant. Please pre-register (to make sure we have enough gowns.) Star boys, please wear a white shirt and black pants.



 **RSVP**

St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
3030 Bellevue Way NE Bellevue, WA 98004 (425) 822-7907 [slukes.org](http://slukes.org)



## CALENDAR

### Wednesday, December 3

### Thursday, December 4

2:00 PM Timber Ridge Worship

### Friday, December 5

*Office is closed.*

### Saturday, December 6

### Sunday, December 7

#### **Advent 2**

9:00 AM Adult Education, Bible Study  
Sunday School, preschool-5<sup>th</sup> grade

**10:00 AM Worship**

### Monday, December 8

10:00 AM Health & Wholeness Meeting  
1:00 PM Staff meeting  
7:00 PM Council meeting

### Tuesday, December 9

8:30 AM Tuesday Morning Men  
9:30 AM Dorcas Circle  
10:00 AM Bible Study  
7:00 PM Bell Choir

### Wednesday, December 10

1:00 PM Care Team meeting  
4:00 PM Adult Education Team meeting

### Thursday, December 11

### Friday, December 12

*Office is closed.*

### Saturday, December 13

### Sunday, December 14

#### **Advent 3**

9:00 AM Adult Education, LCSNW  
Sunday School, preschool-5<sup>th</sup> grade

**10:00 AM Worship**

11:00 AM Sunday Brunch

### Monday, December 15

1:00 PM Staff meeting  
7:00 PM Discipleship Committee

### Tuesday, December 16

8:30 AM Tuesday Morning Men  
10:00 AM Bible Study  
11:45 AM OWLS Holiday Sing!  
7:00 PM Bell Choir

### Wednesday, December 17

You can access our  
weekly online calendar  
[HERE.](#)

**The Reverend Lara Forbes**, Lead Pastor  
pastor@SALC.church

**The Reverend Timothy T. Weber**,  
Shared-Time Pastor  
timwebertt@yahoo.com

**Dr. Will Simpson**,  
Director of Music Ministries  
will@SALC.church

**Doug Johnson**,  
Director of Youth and Family Ministries  
doug@SALC.church

**Sherry Grindeland**, Fellowship Coordinator  
sherry@SALC.church

**Kurt Lutterman**, Facilities Manager  
kurt@SALC.church

**Kathy Fisher**, Communications Director  
kathy@SALC.church

**Vanessa Wilkie**, Handbell Choir Director

**Elaine Koga**, Choir Accompanist

**Abby Kasper**, Facilities Set-up

**April Daniel**, Records Administrator

**Ann Thorpe**, Sunday Church School Coordinator

**Joan Tweten**, Kitchen Team

#### SALC Family Social Media Accounts:



#### Find us on:

