

SEPTEMBER 2026

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

***Arlington, WA
www.arlingtonwachurch.org***

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

The Messenger

The monthly publication of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2. EVENTS
- 3. FROM THE PASTOR
- 4. MINISTRIES
- 5. OUTDOOR WORSHIP & BBQ
- 6. CHILDCARE & PRESCHOOL NEWS
- 7. DID YOU KNOW?
- 8. MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP
- 9. 2026 COUNCIL MEMBERS & STAFF/ FINANCIAL REPORT,
- 10. WORSHIP SERVERS/ PRAYERS
- 11. CELEBRATIONS
- 12-13. CALENDAR
- 14. COVER

EVENTS



God's work. Our hands. September 13th 11:30am - 2:00pm

- PIZZA & SALAD – Gather together for a quick meal before diving into our service projects.
- SERVICE PROJECTS: Tables will be set up throughout the fellowship hall with various service projects that congregation members/guests can select to attend. Individuals can join as many or as few tables/stations as they like as time permits.



Our Saviour's Special Congregational Meeting & Vote

A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 20th at 11:00a.m. in the gym. There will be a congregational vote for the purpose of approving the changes to the constitution. Please plan to attend.



New Members - will be received on **Sunday, September 27th**. Interested? Connect with Pastor John.



Lunch Bunch 12:00 P.M. Tuesday Sept. 29, 2026—Join us for a No Host Lunch at Jimmy's Pizza & Pasta in Stanwood located at 9819 SR 532, Stanwood, WA 98292 . Enjoy a great meal and friendly conversation with your church family. Bring a friend, everyone is welcome! If you plan on attending, there is a signup sheet in the kitchen hallway so we can give the restaurant an estimated number of people attending.



Stillaguamish Conference 5th Annual Joint Worship Many Parts, One Body

Plan to join us on October 11th, 10:00 am at Camano Lutheran as we celebrate the diverse gifts of our congregations, the blessing of our elders and our youth, and our unity in our shared faith.

Joint Choir: Want to help sing that day? Laurie Breon will be gathering folks to rehearse on Sept 30 and October 7.

There will be no service at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on that day.

From the Pastor



Welcome to September! It is hard to believe we are here already. As we turn the page into this new month, there is a lot of activity ahead.

Welcome Sunday: Mark your calendar for September 25th. This is a way for us to intentionally welcome you to Our Saviour's. If you would like to join, please connect with Pastor John. As each journey is different, we will find time to answer all your questions.

Adult Education: Please take an opportunity to answer a few questions about your interests and how you learn. This will help me plan for the upcoming year.

Adult Learning Opportunities – Fill out form

Looking ahead, starting Sept. 20th and 27th we'll look at Conscience and Conversation [PDF resource](#) so you may submit your own comments to the ELCA Task Force no later than September 30th.

Oct. 4th we will sample a new series Bible Study from Augsburg.

Confirmation: (young adults 7-9th grades)

It is time to get together and connect with one another and other students from our Stilly Conference. Plans are underway to meet on select Sunday afternoons to encourage one another and explore our faith together. Connect with Pastor John for more info.

Youth (Pre-k to 6th)

Starting October 4th, plans are underway to offer a brief learning enrichment during worship. The learning will look to build a bit upon the reading of the day and take place after Children's Time. Connect with Judy Donoghue with questions or to get involved.

God's Work, Our Hands: I am excited to see how you participate in this upcoming event on Sunday, September 13th! Here's a video from our Presiding Bishop : [Bishop GWOH Video](#)

Conference Worship: Mark you calendars and plan to attend our Stilly Conference Worship on Sunday Oct. 11th at Camano Lutheran. We are planning on using the church van to help carpool there. More details to follow.

OSLC Ministries

Mission Circle

Meets Tuesday, Sept. 1st & 15th at 9:00am in the modular. For more information, contact the church office. **Quilt Sunday** will be October 18th. Please join us for worship and a quilt sending followed by a coffee hour celebration that will display quilts, school kits, baby kits, and personal kits. There will be an auction of a few quilts that will help with batting and shipping costs.

Mission Circle has a new participation zone along the wall of the stained glass windows. Stop and check out the 75th celebration banner for Mission Circle. Do you sew? Pick up a bundle of pre-cut squares and sew a top for a quilt. Do you shop for bargains? Purchase some items for the school kit drive and the personal care kit drive. Come join us for the first Tue of August in the modular and help tie some quilts. Any questions contact the church office.

School Kits: Thank you for your donations of school supplies to fill backpack school kits to send to Lutheran World Relief for children who are living in poverty: We are almost to our goal of filling 50 backpacks. We have 2 supplies that we are short on. We need more 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ½"; no loose leaf paper and Black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink). Each of these items have 4-5 of them that are in each kit. For any questions, please contact Deb Isler.

Personal Care Kits. As part of our September 13th Gods Work-Our Hands celebration one of the activities our congregation will be participating in is assembling Personal Care Kits for people served through Lutheran World Relief. These kits provide comfort, dignity, and hope to families around the world who have experienced natural disasters, conflict, or poverty. Can you help by donating any of the following: Bath towel (new, approximately 20" x 40" to 52" dark colors recommended); Metal nail clippers; and bath-size bar of soap (4-5 oz. in original wrapping) There is a box in the Narthex for the collection of these items. Thank you for helping us share God's love through service!

Phoebe Circle is a bible study group for women. Phoebe Circle will meet on Thursday September 17th at 10:00am in the classroom at OSLC. Bring your bible and copy of "Gather" if you have it. If not, we share! The theme for this session is: Fall 2026: "Bold faith on an unexpected journey," by the Rev. Tiffany Chaney. 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, September 9th & 23rd at 10am. We will exchange stories, drink some java, and eat some pastries. For more information, please contact the church office.

Comfort Squad meets on the 4th Friday of each month. Join us on September 25th at 10:00am in the classroom at OSLC. All are welcome. For more info, please contact the church office.

Meal Project: This project is now administered through the Volunteers of America. OSLC will provide "Grab and Go" meals on September 15th, Jan Hopson, Kathy Kjargaard and Korene Thomas 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 3pm Monday to Thursday and I will take them to the Arlington Community Resource Center (ACRC). For questions or more suggestions on how you can help please call the church office. Thank you.

Outdoor Worship Service & BBQ August 23rd

Well, the weather didn't put a damper on our outdoor worship service and BBQ plans. Instead of having it outside, we had an inside picnic! The men BBQ'd hamburgers, hotdogs & grilled onions out under the Preschool play area and we had a nice service & picnic lunch in the gym. A special thank you to all who helped, brought food and donated.



Childcare & Preschool News



Childcare News

by Melissa Hackworth, Program Supervisor

Summer flew by! The kids had a blast with our in-house activities as well as a few short local field trips to Biringer Farms, Terrace Park, Silver Scoop and Haller Splash Pad. We also got to meet up with Ben Curley from Curley's Landscaping (him and his team maintain the lawn here at the Church) and he did an outdoor presentation for the children that they really enjoyed. And to bring August to a close, we had a bouncy house along with a GIANT Connect 4 game for the kids to play! So much fun!

We are now in the process of switching gears and preparing for the start of fall. The teachers have been busy organizing and rearranging their classrooms and we are looking forward to the start of a new school year!



by Jennifer Ess, Director

Where did summer go? We are excited to see familiar faces and eager to learn more about our new students starting preschool. The teachers have been spending the last few weeks preparing the classroom for another fun year of learning.

Our teaching team consists of Anna Lundgren (3 Day Lead Teacher), Aura James (2 Day Lead Teacher and 3 Day Teacher Assistant), and Melissa Staffenhagen (5 Day Teacher Assistant). I am thankful for this team of teachers and all the hard work they have already been putting in to make this preschool year a success for everyone. We will be hosting an Open House for students to meet their teachers on Tuesday, September 8th, Wednesday, September 9th, Thursday, September 10th, and Friday, September 11th. Our first days of instruction will be Monday, September 14th and Thursday, September 17th. We do still have space available in our 2 day classrooms. Thank you to everyone who has purchased items from our wishlist or donated to the preschool.

As we begin another year of preschool, we are so incredibly thankful for all the support from the congregation. Your thoughts, prayers, well wishes, donations of time and talents, and encouragement are so appreciated. The entire preschool team feels blessed to be part of such a caring community.

DID YOU KNOW???

Stillaguamish Conference Corner - Did You Know?



That a team of Lutheran's in Arlington are making "bagged meals" for our struggling neighbors? It's true!! They do it with loving hearts too! There are 6 groups at Our Saviour's that prepare 20 bagged meals on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. These meals get hand delivered to the staff at Arlington Community Resource Center (ACRC) in downtown Arlington. While 20 bagged meals don't seem like nearly enough, they do make a huge impact on our neighbors - according to the ACRC staff.



The ACRC Bag Meal Team is currently looking into expanding their group in hopes of providing "more" meals to ACRC. What? In a period of rising grocery costs they are trying to expand? Yes they are!!

This year, our Synod has provided a grant of \$500 dollars that the team is using to buy "non-perishables". The team is actively carving out more space in the OSLC kitchen storage room and loving every minute of it! We are excited to see where the Lord leads this merry bagged band of brothers and sisters in the months and years ahead!

Our Saviour's - Did You Know?

That Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Preschool & Childcare is on Social Media?

Check us out and review us on the following!

Church

Facebook - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Google & Google Maps - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Yelp - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

YouTube -Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Arlington

Preschool

Facebook - Our Saviour's Preschool

Google & Google Maps - Our Saviour's Preschool

Yelp - Our Saviour's Preschool

Childcare

Facebook - Our Saviour's Childcare

Google & Google Maps - Our Saviour's Childcare



Message from the Bishop

**During the Bishop's Sabbatical we are lifting up guest writers from the synod staff.
Thank you to Rev. Dr. David Hahn, our featured writer for September 2026.**



Called to Be Human: Introducing the LiVE Project's 2026–2027

What does it mean to be human?

Adrienne Marie Brown's Emergent Strategy names a principle that's been on my mind: “There is a conversation in the room that only these people at this moment can have. Find it.” What is the conversation the church, at this moment, needs to be having? This year's LiVE Project theme is our answer: Called to Be Human. What kind of people does our world need us to show up as, in light of our life in Jesus?

Amid our challenges, disagreements, and anxieties, the Spirit is calling the church to wrestle with this question in ways that honor the dignity of being human — even as so much of our world, its economics, politics, and digital cultures, works to divide our attention and our intentions to live with and for one another.

Across four retreats and two online courses, we'll explore what it means to live fully into our humanity in light of our Christian faith, our motivations and presuppositions, our affections and desires, our freedom, our consciousness, our conscience.

A passage from *Inviting the Mystic, Supporting the Prophet*, by Katherine Dyckman and Patrick Carroll, has been sitting with us as we've built this year's programming:

It is as if each human person constitutes a committee constantly sitting to decide life's questions and the behavior desired in a given situation. This committee has many members within, each voicing a particular slant—our fears, feelings, dreams, and hopes, our history and relationships, our member, our various subpersonalities, and our reason. Hopefully, the chairperson of that committee is reason, deeply influenced and guided by affectivity. All the voices need to be heard and listened to. Ultimately, at their best, people make choices that chart the direct and, over time, develop the person.

That's the heart of “Called to Be Human.” Not a call to have it all figured out, or to quiet the noisy parts of ourselves, but a call to the ongoing, sacred work of listening to every voice at the table, so that, choice by choice, we become more integrated, more whole, more truly ourselves in Christ.

This year's retreats and courses put in conversation various members of that inner committee: our desires, our freedom, our conscience, our imagination, our history. We'll ask what it looks like for God to be present in these, in our community conversations, and with curiosity rather than judgment. None of us chairs that committee alone; we do it in relationship, with God, with each other, and with the communities we're called to serve.

We can't wait to gather alongside you this year, to wonder together about this timely and necessary question:

who is God calling us, and not challenging us, to be?

Peace,
Pastor David

Director of Formation and Learning | Northwest Washington Synod | david@lutheransnw.org

2026 Council Members & Staff

2026 Council Members

Kevin Ess, President

Judy Donoghue

Kyle Hart

Debra Isler

Carol Lindenmuth, Vice President

Alyce Riddle

Tom Rohde

Jamie Smith, Secretary

Beth Husted, Treasurer

Staff

John Schraan, Pastor

Tammy DeWard, Office Manager

Laurie Breon, Music Director

Bev Curtis, Childcare Director

Jennifer Ess, Preschool Director

Financial Report



Month	Actual Giving	Actual Expenses	Difference
July	\$30,155.98	\$26,514.56	\$3,641.42
Y.T.D. (Jan 2026- July 2026)	\$203,306.61	\$188,888.54	\$14,418.07

**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

September Worship Servers

	6	13	20	27	
Audio/Video Booth Techs	Max Maxwell Vance DeWard	Max Maxwell	Greg Husted	Max Maxwell	
Communion Assistants	Jan Hopson Nancy Yonker	Rohde Family	Ron & Kathy Thordarson	Burke & Judy Phillips	
Lectors	Kevin Ess	Barb Chamberlin	Sharon Billdt	Steve Baylor	
Ushers/ Hosts	Lisa Masters Barb Chamberlin	Kathy & Lowell Stuehrenberg	Crone Family	Allen & Darcy Larson	
Flowers		Dee Daves	Vance & Tammy DeWard	Deb Isler	
Coffee Hour	Phoebe Circle	Men's Coffee Fellowship	Mission Circle		
Teller/s	Sharon Knoepfle Judy Phillips	Karen Crone Jan Hopson	Kathy Thordarson Kerry Graves	Sharron Knutson Max Maxwell	
Lock Up	Kyle Hart	Deb Isler	Tom Rohde	Deb Isler	

Sunday Scriptures for September

Sabbath

September 6th Deuteronomy 15:1-2, 7-11

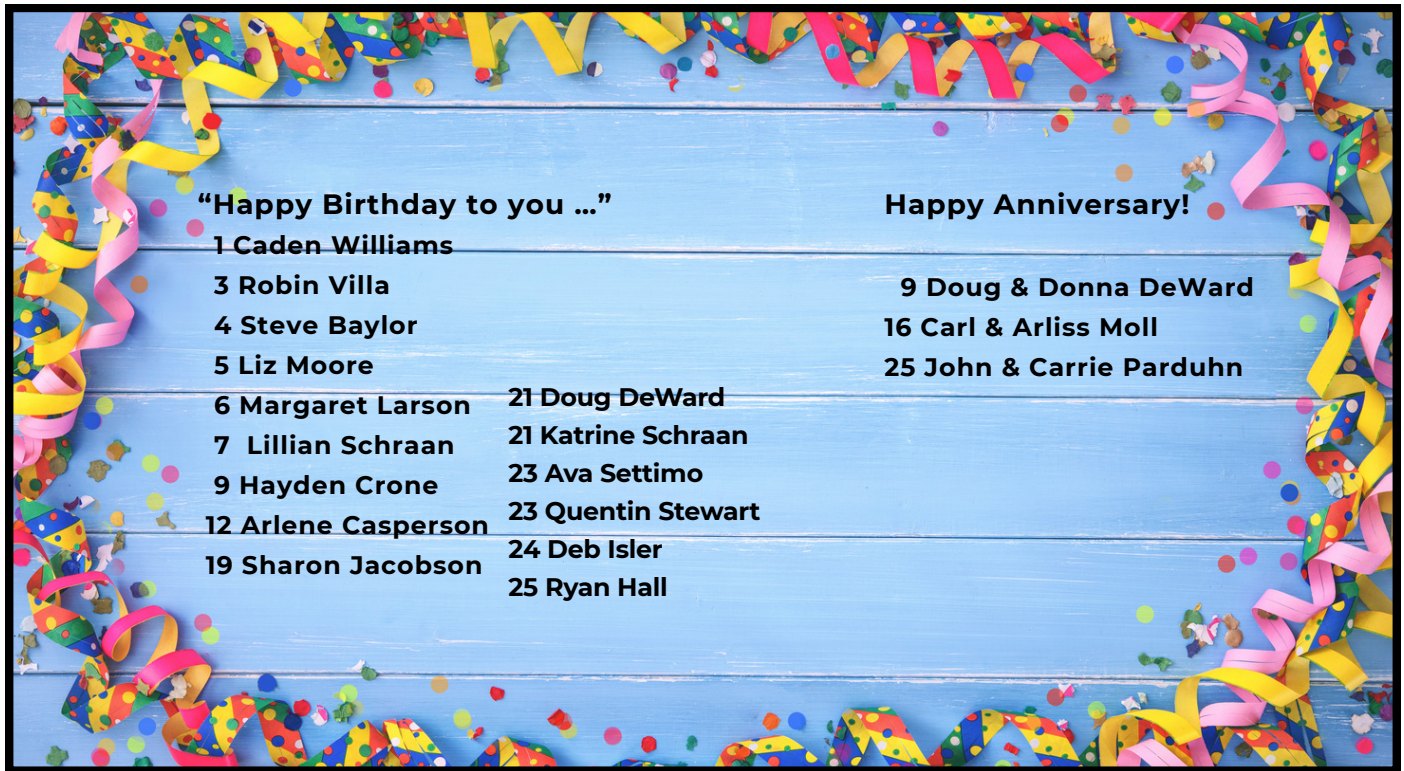
Creation-Judges

September 13th Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17 – Flood and Promise

September 20th Genesis 12:1-9 – Call of Abraham

September 27th Genesis 39:1-23 – Joseph in Prison

Celebrations



Prayers of Concern and Thanks

Carol Kircher - healing from fall & broken kneecap
 David Mikesell - health challenges (husband of Sue Mikesell)
 Doris Senica - prayers for healing
 Deacon Liz Colver - health challenges
 Dennis Heaton - health challenges
 Dianne Engelsen - prayers for healing
 Eileen Lewis - healing from hip replacement (sister of Robin Barker)
 Ellen Winter - health challenges
 Glenn Lindenmuth - cancer diagnosis-early stages, pray for complete cure (husband of Carol Lindenmuth)
 Joe Tolison - improving with therapy (brother-in-law of Laurie Breon)
 Kaleo Yuen - 14yr old w/tumor on knee, upcoming surgery (grandson of Max & Susann Maxwell)
 Leslie Faxon - pray for ongoing treatment and health. (friend of several members)
 Leena Prindle - healing from surgery & radiation for breast cancer (daughter of Dennis Heaton)
 Margaret Larson - health challenges
 Maxwell & Alyssa Tanner - prayers (Ron & Sharon Gierhan's grandson & his wife)
 Michael Fulton - health challenges (brother-in-law of Linda Jodock)
 Monte Redal - healing from back surgery (brother of Laurie Breon)
 Patrick O'Neil - stage 4 melanoma (brother of Peggy Shortt)
 Richard Gonzalas - concern w/family member who self deported due to fear (friend of Lisa Masters)
 Roy Grewe - prayers for continued recover from stem cell transplant at home (brother of Ruth Gonzales)
 Sharon Gierhan - healing from fall
 Sue Andersson - hearing issues
 Those serving in uniform.
 Condolences to the family & friends of Ozzie Wilkinson



September Calendar 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 9:00a Mission Circle	2	3 6pm Basketball	4	
6 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee & Conversation 4p Basketball	7 Labor Day Office Closed 6:00p BSA Troop 92	8 Preschool Orientation	9 Preschool Orientation 10:00a Men's Coffee Fellowship	10 Preschool Orientation 6pm Basketball	11 Preschool Orientation	12
13 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee & Conversation 4p Basketball	14 6:00p BSA Troop 92	15 9:00a Mission Circle 7:00p Learning Center Board Mtg	16	17 6pm Basketball	18	19
20 10:00a Worship 11:00a Congregation Mtg & Vote 12:00p Finance Mtg 4p Basketball	21 6:00p BSA Troop 92	22	23 10:00a Men's Coffee Fellowship	24 5:30p Church Council 6:00p Basketball	25 10:00a Comfort Squad Mtg	26
27 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee & Conversation 4p Basketball	28 6:00p BSA Troop 92	29	30 10:00a Men's Coffee Fellowship			



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Gods Work ~ Our Hands

September 13, 2026

11:30 AM – 2:00 PM

JOIN US NEXT SUNDAY
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

A G E N D A

- **PIZZA & SALAD** – Gather together for a quick meal before starting our service projects.
- **SERVICE PROJECTS:** Tables will be set up throughout the fellowship hall with various service projects that congregation members/guests can select to attend. Each table or area of service will have some type of sign letting participants know what project is being held there. Individuals can join as many or as few tables/stations as they like.
 1. Baby Care Kit Assembly – Baby kits will be assembled and ready to ship to Lutheran World Relief.
 2. School Kit Demonstration – Demonstration on what items go into the LWR school kits.
 3. Personal Care Kits – Care kits that will be put together to be shipped to Lutheran World Relief.
 4. Breaking Bread Together – Learn how to make our communion bread from start to finish.
 5. Encouragement Card Party – Make attractive encouragement cards to share with others.
 6. God's Love Rocks – Paint/decorate rocks that can be shared with others.
 7. Blessing Bags – Decorate blessing bags (large paper lunch bags) that will be used to pack our homeless lunches in.
 8. God Shine's His Light – Opportunity to lend a hand and spruce up the lighting in the sanctuary.
- **DESSERT** – Gather together and sing the theme song “Gods Work. Our Hands” while enjoying a special Ice Cream Treat served by our Church Council.
- **CLOSING** – Join hands around the Fellowship Hall as Pastor says a closing prayer.



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