



Pastor's Note...

On October 25 10 youth affirmed their baptism and made promises before God and the gathered community to:

- Live among God's faithful people
- Hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper
- Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
- Serve all people, following the example of Jesus
- Strive for justice and peace in all the earth

During our shared worship in the afternoon we heard the faith statements of nine of the youth. Their statements included the following lines that gladden my heart and I pray will gladden yours.

From **Alina**, "Philippians 4:6-7, says "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." This verse really resonates with me because I have struggled with bad anxiety for a long time, and this verse has helped me get over that."

From **Micah**, "Corinthians 13:1-8,13 is special to me because love is a big part of my life. I like that at the beginning, it says that even if I can do all these amazing things, it's all pointless, unless I have love. It says that love is not about making yourself powerful or higher than others.

(cont.) It requires patience and kindness. God is love. If I'm doing things with love, then I'm doing things with God."

And from **Melanie**, "I would like to focus on Colossians 3:12: "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."

I really like this verse because it expresses one of the things I like most about our faith: the emphasis on positive values and perspective towards life. To get a bit philosophical, none of us really know why we're alive, but I like to think the reason doesn't matter so much as what we do with our time as decision-making influence-having humans. I feel like the bible does a really good job of showing us there is absolutely no reason to be mean or exclusive or negative if we could be kind and compassionate and joyful. Even when it is difficult, it just makes sense in the big picture to "clothe" ourselves with values and practices that make everyone's time on Earth better, Christian or not."

I could share quotes from each statement, but these three stand out to me this week. I am grateful for the Holy Spirit's work in all the youth entrusted to our care. Their wisdom brings me joy and hope.

Let us give thanks to God for their witness. Amen!

In this newsletter you will find:

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In November

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November
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Bishop's Letter &
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the PNW

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Essentials: Our
Impact Together!

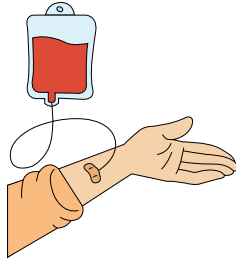
SAVE THE DATE - ANNUAL MEETING, SUN, NOV 22

Special Events in November



Nov. 14 Rummage Sale

9am-3pm in the Fellowship Hall, Luther's Lounge and Breezeway. Proceeds to benefit ELCC youth attending the 2027 national youth gathering. *Members/Friends of Mt Si: You are still welcome to bring your planned donations for the rummage sale! Donations are closed outside of the congregation.*



Nov. 17 Red Cross Blood Drive

10am-3pm in the Fellowship Hall. Learn more and set your appointment here:



You also can call 1-800-RED-CROSS or go to www.redcrossblood.org. Our zip code is 98045.



Nov. 19 Food Box Packing

4-5 volunteers are needed each 3rd Thursday of the month from 10:00am-12:00pm in Luther's Lounge.

Please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall



Nov. 22 - Flannel Fest & Congregational Meeting

Let's have some fun! Following worship on Nov. 22, we'll conduct business and then have a chili cookoff and pie. Wear your flannel shirts, and bring canned soup and chili for the food bank! Other churches in the ELCC are joining in on this festive fun filled fellowship gathering.



Nov. 28 Hanging of the Greens

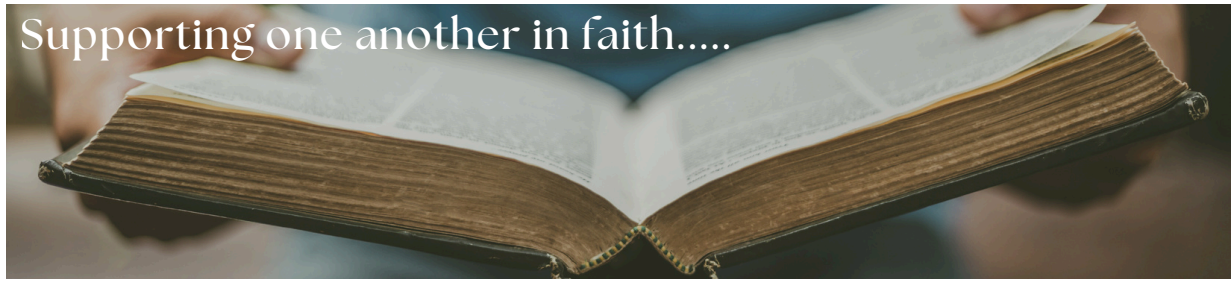
10am-12pm. Come decorate the Sanctuary and Luther's Lounge with special greenery boxes for each window; create music canvas to go above the windows; and put up Christmas Trees, nativities, and more! Enjoy hot cocoa, cider and cookies while you work. All ages welcome!



Nov 29 Advent Festival

Are you excited! Advent is here! Come gather after worship on November 29th for a special Advent Festival. We will make Advent wreaths, ornaments and share in a special time of fellowship. This is fun for all ages. See you there!

Supporting one another in faith.....



Sunday Readings & Weekday Education Opportunities

NOVEMBER SUNDAY LESSONS

November 1 - (All Saints Sunday)

First Lesson: Revelation 7:9-17

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:1-12

November 8

First Lesson: Wisdom 6:12-16

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 25:1-13

November 15

First Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 25:14-30

November 22

First Lesson: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 25:31-46

November 29

Advent 1 - Stay tuned!

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN NOVEMBER

Men's Bible Study - Saturdays, 9am @
Little Si Restaurant.

Women's Bible Study - Mondays,
12:30pm, Multi-Purpose Room

Wednesday Bible Study - Wednesday
evenings from 6-7:30pm in Luther's
Lounge. NOTE: *No class on Nov. 11.* Final
class meets Nov. 18.

Confirmation - Sunday, Nov. 15th, 4-7 @
St. Andrew's



Terry Adams 7th

Joanne Chase 7th

Sheila Rodriguez 11th

Tom Lee 13th

Jace Lee 15th

Charles Lynch 17th

Lindsey Cassidy 23rd

**If we missed your birthday or
anniversary, please reach out to the
office so we can make the correction.**



Address update!

Joyce Ayers has moved & would like to
share her new address:

3607 228th Ave SE #235
Issaquah, WA 98029



Flower Chart Sign-ups

**Please consider signing up to bring
flowers for our altar on Sunday morning.**

This can be in honor or memory of
a loved one or event in your life
or just because you enjoy flowers!

The flower chart is in the
Fellowship Hall hallway.
Thank you for your offering!

Our mission: to serve, reach out & grow in grace...

Let's Celebrate! Fall Family Festival Photos

A big shout out to all our volunteers who spent hours decorating, planning and setting up for the Fall Family Festival this year. Thank you to those who helped on the day with various leadership roles and to those who decorated trunks! What a blast!!





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



Bishop's Letter

November 2026

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven. Ecc. 3:1

Thank you so much for the opportunity to be on sabbatical this summer/fall. When asked what I was focusing on during my sabbatical, my overall answer was, "less." I wanted to be less busy, less frenetic, less torn between competing responsibilities.

I wanted rest, renewal, and re-connection. I wanted to return following sabbatical with a new understanding of how to be in the office of bishop and also be healthy and whole. Unfortunately, while my weeks away were filled with many things, what I was hoping for did not materialize. Let me explain.

During my sabbatical many joyful family things happened including officiating at my niece's wedding, a niece having a baby, several birthday celebrations, and my son getting married. Sadly, there was also tragedy: My uncle died, my aunt's partner died, and my dad died quite unexpectedly. (My son got married on September 5, I left for a trip to Guatemala on September 8, and my dad died on September 11 – while I was in Guatemala.)

Before my dad's death, the trip to Guatemala was truly a life-changing experience through a tour with Augsburg Center for Global Education. The stories and the new understanding of the country will inform my ministry for many years to come. I was encouraged to see hopeful signs of democracy and entrepreneurship as well as difficulties with farmers dealing with climate change, the poor not receiving what is rightfully theirs, and ongoing corruption. The beauty and resilience of the people along with the gorgeous land will stay with me.

All in all, as I return to my responsibilities, I celebrate the joys, grieve the deaths that have happened, and wish that my sabbatical had truly been "less."

In the days and weeks to come, I am focusing on listening and learning what occurred in the synod while I was gone, speaking at three different gatherings against Christian Nationalism, gearing up to visit congregations, and continue planning for the good of the synod.

What did I learn/discover in this sabbatical? The fragility of life, family is precious, God is truly present in all things, people are beautiful and resilient, joys and sorrows can be packed together, and we cannot choose what happens on what timeline. Perhaps these are obvious and perhaps I knew them already ... but in this time I am feeling these things more deeply and holding them more closely.

Thank you for the many prayers, cards, and messages I have received from you. I feel surrounded by your care. Thank you for the time of sabbatical.

In Christ,

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church member, Chris Megargee, has spent a lifetime following his call as a Christian. That journey has taken him across the country and around the world. Following the thread of his life makes it apparent that God has prepared Chris for such a time as this.

Chris began college at Duke University as an Electrical Engineering student. Feeling the need to deepen his faith life, he took a semester off to live with the Missionaries of Charity Brothers (founded by Mother Theresa), caring for Central American refugee youth in Los Angeles. That experience planted the seeds of his love for Latin America and led him to transfer his schooling to the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. and to change his major from Engineering to Religion.

While studying in D.C., Chris learned about the injustices perpetrated by U.S.-supported regimes in Central America and about the policies which led people to flee their homes and seek safety in the U.S.—like the refugees he’d served in Los Angeles. A deepening desire to put his faith in action and work for justice after college led him to move to Bolivia and study Hispanic ministry through Maryknoll School of Theology. From Bolivia he went on to El Salvador, where he saw the impact that community radio can have as a tool for social change.

His interest in community radio led to a move to Seattle, enrollment in tech school to study electronics, and then an engineering job at KOMO-TV. He spent ten years at KOMO, during which time he and his wife started and raised their family. In his work as a TV engineer, however, Chris felt like his social change work had been put on a bit of a pause.

A yearning to use his gifts for greater social impact led him to organize “An Evening Against Hate”—a community social change event to address and provide solutions to hate crimes, which took place in October 2001 in the wake of 9/11 at Seattle Center’s McCaw Hall. Working on that project reminded him of how much he felt called to a different vocation. He left behind his broadcast engineering career to embrace a new path in nonprofit fundraising. For over twenty years, he has been raising philanthropic funding for organizations serving people living on the margins, especially in Latin America and with immigrant communities locally.

While Chris loves his Catholic faith, he was uncomfortable with the lack of inclusivity in many parishes. A friend invited him to Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church and from the first day, he, his wife and their two children felt welcomed. The liturgy was surprisingly similar to what he was used to, and he loved the powerful witness of a church that was both Jesus-centered and socially progressive. They felt at home, and Chris now describes himself as a Catholic Christian worshipping in a Lutheran church.

When President Trump was elected in 2024, Chris felt called to more intense involvement with vulnerable folks. Since then, he has spent most of his time in accompaniment work with immigrant community members. He volunteers with the Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice, accompanying immigrants to court, to ICE check-ins, and biometrics appointments. He also interprets at monthly asylum clinics organized by Riverton Park United Methodist Church in Tukwila. Some of his most challenging and most rewarding work is with the National Day Labor Organizing Network (NDLON). With NDLON, he organized an Adopt a Corner solidarity group to support immigrant day laborers who seek employment in the parking lot of the Shoreline Home Depot. Active volunteers show up 3 days/week to build relationships with day laborers. They provide a ministry of presence – offering a meal, encouraging folks to hire them, and making sure the laborers know their rights if ICE arrives. Tragically, eight men have been detained by ICE from that parking lot since January.

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One of the biggest challenges for Chris is seeing people in power use their power to be heartbreakingly efficient with their cruelty. He finds joy in the relationships he has formed with immigrant neighbors, in being invited to walk alongside folks he would not have met otherwise, in being known as “one of the people helping us,” and in how God is using him to love God’s people. He finds solace in Mother Theresa’s words, “God does not ask me to be successful, but to be faithful.

Recognizing that not everyone can set their job aside and volunteer full time, Chris suggests we all find one thing we CAN do – hire a day laborer, or donate, or translate, and most importantly show up with kindness and love.

To give people a concrete way to help, Chris recently launched the FIRE Campaign: Fueling Immigrant & Refugee Empowerment. FIRE is an emergency fundraising initiative to meet the critical needs of immigrant neighbors by fueling the work of eight frontline immigrant-serving organizations across Washington state. Funds raised by FIRE are unrestricted and distributed equally among the eight organizations. You can learn more about FIRE at firecampaign.org.

Joyfully,
Cindy Shultz
NW WA Synod Vice President | veep@lutheransnw.org

Confirmation Congratulations, Micah!



BACK TO SCHOOL: ESSENTIALS

Check out
the final
numbers for
this year's
backpack
drive!



Thank you SVA Church and all our supporting members, organizations and individual donors.

OUR IMPACT TOGETHER!



532
backpacks
full of supplies



220
packs of
color crayons



880
glue sticks



1200+
hi-liters



426
pairs of shoes,
socks and
underwear

We had another successful
Backpack Ministry in 2026.

Thank you to all who
supported our Snoqualmie
Valley Students.

Sturdy backpack
Notebooks
Folders

Ruler
Scissors
Book stick
Calculator
Pencils
Glue
Eraser
Highlighters

A SAMMAMISH HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A magical evening of carols, choir & classical music presented by
Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church Music Ministry Team and Friends

December 12th at 6:30 PM



Mt Si Lutheran will host a free
craft booth and hand out free hot
chocolate and Christmas Eve
invitations. Look for sign-ups!