

NOVEMBER 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

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Holiday Baskets



Thanksgiving Baskets- Once again we will be helping families with Thanksgiving meals - however we are working to increase the number of families we are able to help, and how our Holiday Baskets will work going forward. Helping families is always at the core of what we do with these Holiday Baskets and I wish everyone was able to experience the emotions that come with delivering these items. We want to continue sharing and showing God's love through these gifts, while being mindful that not every family is able to store or prepare a full Thanksgiving or Christmas meal. Many families are living in shelters where access to an oven is not available, or living where storage of food items is limited. I am working with fellow church members who are connected with outreach resources, such as the Food Bank, and Arlington Community Resource Center to see how we can make the biggest impact to the Arlington Community during the holidays. More information will be coming! Thank you for continuing to support this wonderful ministry of Our Saviours.



Holiday Greenery Fundraiser

Our Saviour's Preschool: We have another fundraiser opportunity. We are having a Holiday Greenery Fundraiser! Orders are due no later than Monday, November 16th. You may pick up your items Wednesday, December 2nd. Any checks should be made out to Our Saviour's Preschool with Fundraiser in the memo line. Thank you for your support! Order forms are available in the Narthex.

Josephine Christmas Gift Giving Tree



Thank you for your ongoing support of the Josephine Caring Community and residents. I will soon receive tags for our Josephine Giving Tree. Each tag will include a resident's first name, age, and specific gift requests, in addition to a personalized Christmas card from you. As you take your tag **Please, Please** remember to sign it out on the "Check Out Your Gift Tag" clip board. This is for me to call you in case of a date or time change. Thank you all so much for your heartfelt compassion, prayers, and wonderful support in bringing joy to the Josephine residents. I know how challenging things can be financially right now, especially for those on fixed incomes. If you'd still love to join in, a great option is to pick up a tag and share the gift cost with a friend or two! I am so deeply grateful for your continuous kindness and generosity.
If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 360-435-8921.
Thank you again for your open warmheartedness and support.

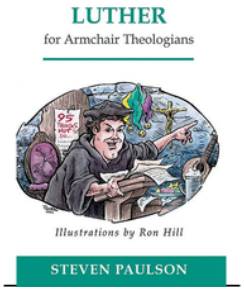


Join Pastor John on Sundays at 9:00am in the classroom. We will be looking at “Bible and Borders.” Starting on November 8th, “Luther for Armchair Theologians.”

Coming in November!

Adult Education: 9 am Classroom

Order from your favorite source today!



LiVE Project 2026-2027: Our Saviour’s has purchased a congregational bundle. Members can register for any LiVE course or retreat for FREE! Promo code: Contact the church office for the code. https://www.lutheransnw.org/ministries/the-live-project.

- In order to register for any LiVE retreat or course for free, registrants simply need to enter that promo code on the registration page and the total cost will become $0. This Year’s Theme - Called to Be Human.
- Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-Being of All - Wednesdays 7-8:30pm, Sept 30 - Nov 11
- **Jesus vs. Caesar: For People Tired of Serving the Wrong God - Day Retreat - Nov 14, 9am-3pm. In-person at Edmonds United Methodist Church & online via Zoom**

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UPCOMING END OF THE YEAR OSLC FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY, NOV. 19, 2026 — LUNCH BUNCH — 12:00 P.M.

Join us for a No Host Lunch at Gleneagle Restaurant located at 7619 E. Country Club Drive, Arlington, WA 98223. Enjoy a great meal & 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.

Hope to see you there!

SATURDAY, DEC. 12, 2026 — “SING, SIP, SAVOR & SURPRISE” — 2:00 – 4:00 P.M.

Join us for a fun afternoon full of Christmas Cheer! We will meet at the church at 1:45 p.m. to carpool to Olympic Place where we will sing some Christmas Carols to/with the residents. Then we will come back to the church where we will enjoy hot cocoa and have some special treats. Next on the agenda will be a Christmas Walk Cookie Exchange for those that want to participate. We will end the afternoon on a very fun note-playing Christmas Surprise Unwrap. Come, we need your voices and your laughter!

From the Pastor



Dear Friends in Christ, November 1st is All Saints Day, and this year we observe it on Sunday in worship, on the actual date ascribed for it on our church calendar. I came across this excerpt from Diana Butler Bass in her book A Beautiful Year: 52 Mediations on Faith, Wisdom, and Perseverance.

"What makes someone a saint?

A traditional reading for All Saints' Day is Matthew 5:1-12, considered to be Jesus's central ethical teaching, known by the shorthand name: the Beatitudes.

Some Christians interpret the Beatitudes to describe spiritual attitudes like despondency, broken heartedness, docility, leniency, and so forth; God will transform these difficult emotions into a blessing. Others insist they are literal — Jesus is really speaking about the poor, those suffering unbearable grief, the starving, and the marginalized. Powerless people are the saints of God's kingdom, and following Jesus means standing with and among those who are despised and oppressed.

You needn't choose between the interpretations. In different ways, both describe an ethical path that moves between who we are and what we do. We humans need healing from the emotional turmoil of life. We also need to question the assumptions of power and privilege that have twisted blessings into little other than greed and exploitation. We know how hurtful our societies are to the have-nots. We'd rather ignore what their pain says about our choices.

The Beatitudes are countercultural, whether about disposition or circumstance. Being blessed is found in and through a radical embrace of hardship, lament, humility, generosity, virtue, and nonviolence — from the deepest places of our inner lives to the activities of service and solidarity we enact in the world.

What makes someone a saint? Following the right. And what is "right"? The Beatitudes reveal Jesus's contention that the "first shall be last, and the last shall be first." The wounded and heartbroken are the blessed. The poor and the peacemakers are blessed.
When asked what makes a saint, the writer Barbara Brown Taylor once answered by paraphrasing the Beatitudes: "Extravagance. Excessive love, flagrant mercy, radical affection, exorbitant charity, immoderate faith, intemperate hope, inordinate love."

A saint embodies these characteristics. A saint is someone whose life is guided by the Beatitudes. Because, for all the bad publicity some contemporary Christians have brought upon the faith, there are plenty of people who have understood and attempted to live this path. In the past and in the present. And although they are often overlooked, more than a few did a decent job of it. They are the saints. The ones whom we — who want to do good — emulate. All Saints' Day asks that we remember the way of blessing, the quiet faith of the saints among us.

Honestly, I want to be one, too."

From "A Beautiful Year" © 2025 and reprinted by permission of St. Martin's Publishing Group.

Looking forward to seeing you in worship soon to call to mind all of God's faithful ones and explore how we might live our faith together!

Pastor John Schraan

OSLC Ministries

Mission Circle

Meets Tuesday, November 3rd & 17th at 9:00am in the modular. For more information, contact Beth Husted or the church office.

Thank you! The quilt auction raised $610. That helped to ship the 644 pounds of items 40 quilts, 65 baby care kits, 56 school kits and 45 personal care kits) to Lutheran World Relief. The quilts and kits will be combined with those from other churches throughout the U.S. and sent throughout the world.
What is next? We are working on quilts for the Holiday basket families and quilts for missionary Todd Elefson to take back with him early next year. So, he can share with those in need.
Are you interested in what we do, how you can participate? Come and see, we meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month in the modular from 9-12. Or contact Beth Husted or the church office with questions.

Phoebe Circle is a bible study group for women. Phoebe Circle will meet on Thursday November 19th 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 Sally Shinstrom or the church office.

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

Comfort Squad meets on the 4th Friday of each month. Join us on November 27th at 10:00am in the classroom at OSLC. All are welcome. For more info, please contact Jan Hopson or the church office.

Meal Project: We are looking for people who would like to join us in providing meals to the needy. We provide bag lunches once a month on the third Tuesday of each month. This is done through the Volunteers of America/Arlington Community Resource Center, and meals are delivered to the ACRC. We are looking to grow this project to twice a month. The resource center's need is great and help is very much appreciated.This month's team is Sarah Amende and Jennifer Ess. If you are interested Please contact Barbara Chamberlin 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 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 me: Bob Zerbel or the church office.



CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM

JOSEPHINE CARING COMMUNITY

The Spiritual Care Department at Josephine is rooted in God's love and provides emotional and spiritual support to its residents, families, and staff. Over 112 residents are requesting chaplain visits on an ongoing basis. To respond to this important need, the department is offering our Chaplaincy Preparation Program which is a 6-month educational and experiential program to train volunteer chaplains.

The heartbeats of the program are ***compassion, listening, curiosity,*** *and* ***inclusivity.*** The diversity of beliefs and values of our residents is always honored. Chaplains will also be encouraged to discern and strengthen their own faith and values as well through the program.

The training is scheduled for **January-June 2027** and will welcome a cohort of 4 new chaplains to join the 11 chaplains currently serving our residents. Rev. Eileen Burdick will be facilitating this program and is a Board Certified Chaplain through the Association of Professional Chaplains with over 12 years of chaplaincy experience. She has also served as a congregational pastor with over 12 years in ministry.

If you are interested in this program at Josephine, please contact the Spiritual Care Department for detailed information and an application.

2027 CHAPLAINCY PREPARATION PROGRAM

6-month educational and experiential program

13 hrs. per month

FREE

Application deadline is *November 13th*.

JOSEPHINE CARING COMMUNITY

Rev. Eileen Burdick, MDiv BCC
Spiritual Care Director
eileenb@josephinecc.com
(360) 386-3231
9901 272nd Pl NW,
Stanwood, WA 98292



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

Thank you for attending the 5th annual conference worship! There were 200+ people in attendance! We have reviewed and appreciate your feedback on the worship service! The offering collected at the gathering was just over $2300 (thank you!!). As promised, those funds will be divided and go to the following local resource centers; Arlington Community Resource Center, Community Resource Center of Stanwood Camano, LiNC Northwest (Lakewood), and First Things First (Marysville). We specified that the funds be used for "housing" (rent, hotel vouchers, utility bills, etc.). We also wanted to especially thank the youth who participated! The warm communion bread was "AWESOME", and it was fun seeing the youth serving in various roles at the service. And, once again, the combined choir was wonderful! It was so nice to hear the brass/woodwind/string instruments layered into the choir music this year!

Greg Husted and Bob (Max) Maxwell
Our Saviour's Lay Leader Representatives
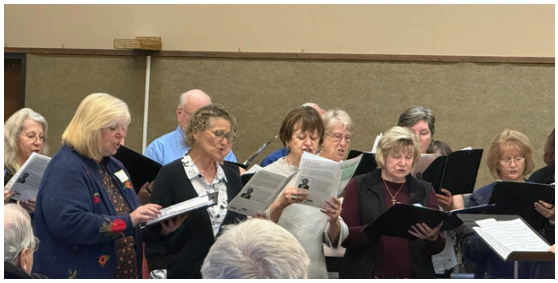




























Fall For Jesus, He Never Leaves





















































Childcare & Preschool News



Childcare News by Melissa Hackworth, Program Supervisor

Fall is flying by! We enjoyed our harvest parties at the end of last month and are now gearing up for Thanksgiving! Our themes for November are Food/Nutrition and Thanksgiving. The Sea Monkeys (2 ½-3 yr. old) and the Explorers (4 & 5 yr. old) have been focusing on developing their scissor skills and fine motor strength with cutting activities and lacing activities which also helps with their hand-eye coordination. They have been practicing letter and sound matching along with matching numbers. They have been working so hard! If you haven't already, please follow along on our Facebook page to see more of what we have been learning in our classrooms!
We hope everyone has a blessed Thanksgiving!

PRESCHOOL

Preschool News By Jennifer Ess – Director

October is always a fun month at the preschool! We have started falling into our routines and the students start making new friends. We had fun learning all about fall, how pumpkins grow, harvest time, and all that God gives us. We learned that God keeps His promises with the story of Noah's Ark.

Both classes had a great visit to Andrew's Hay Pumpkin Patch and picked the perfect pumpkin, as well as learned how pumpkins, wheat, and corn grow. Both classes lucked out with great weather for their time at the patch! There were lots of activities to keep the kids busy - highlights being the corn bin, hay-slides, and a pile of sand - complete with a tunnel and construction trucks. It really is the simple things sometimes. Harvest parties were a hit for both classes with fun crafts, pumpkin games, candy corn bowling, cookie decorating (and eating) as well as a dance party.

November brings learning about families, more fun bible stories, chapel time with Pastor John, and getting ready for Advent and Christmas. We are excited for our upcoming Christmas Programs in December.

The preschool is also holding our annual Holiday Greenery Fundraiser – orders are due November 16th and will be ready for pick up on December 2nd. Monies raised from this fundraiser will go to our Scholarship Fund and Classroom Enhancements.



3 Day Class



2 Day Class



Message from the Bishop

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

2026 Council Members & Staff

2026 Council Members

Kevin Ess, President

Judy Donoghue

Kyle Hart

Debra Isler

Carol Lindenmuth, Vice President

Alyce Riddle

Tom Rohde

Beth Husted, Treasurer

Staff

John Schraan, Pastor **360-435-8921**
pastor@arlingtonwachurch.org

Tammy DeWard, Office Manager **360-435-8921**
office@arlingtonwachurch.org

Laurie Breon, Music Director **360-435-8921**
office@arlingtonwachurch.org

Bev Curtis, Childcare Director **360-435-8922**
childcare@arlingtonwachurch.org

Jennifer Ess, Preschool Director **360-435-8921**
preschool@arlingtonwachurch.org

Financial Report





Month	Actual Giving	Actual Expenses	Difference
September	$22,679.80	$25,282.27	-$2,602.47
Y.T.D. (Jan 2026-Sept. 2026)	$250,295.51	$239,886.64	$10,408.87

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

November Worship Servers

	1	8	15	22	29
Audio/Video Booth Techs	Sally Shinstrom Kathy Thordarson				Kathy Thordarson
Communion Assistants	Jan Hopson Nancy Yonker	Ron & Kathy Thordarson	Howard & Sharon Knoepfle	Judy & Burke Phillips	Rohde Family
Lectors	Tammy DeWard	Barb Chamberlin	Carol Lindenmuth	Jamie Smith	Jen Ess
Ushers/ Hosts	Barb Chamberlin Lisa Masters	Kathy & Lowell Stuehrenberg	Karen Crone Family	Steve & Robin Barker	John & Sharon Billdt
Flowers	Vance & Tammy DeWard	Connie Martinis	Jean Milliss	Ellen Winter	
Coffee Hour	Phoebe Circle	Men's Coffee Fellowship	Mission Circle		
Teller/s	Max Maxwell Kathy Thordarson	Karen Crone Jan Hopson	Sharon Knoepfle Judy Phillips	Kerry Graves Sharron Knutson	Max Maxwell Karen Crone
Lock Up	Carol Lindenmuth	Judy Donoghue	Deb Isler	Tom Rohde	Deb Isler

Sunday Scriptures for November

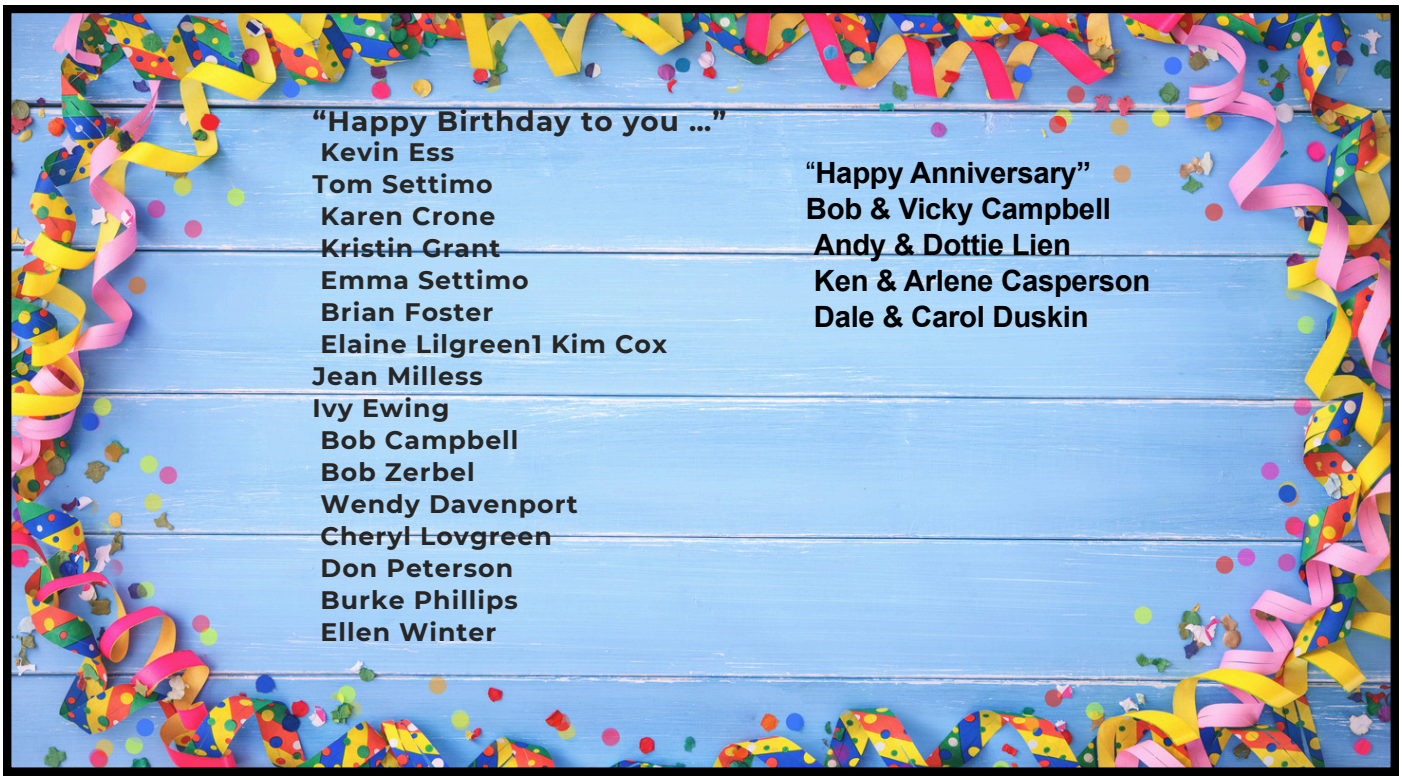
Kings and Prophets

- November 1, 2026 1 Kings 3:4–9, [10–15], 16–28 Solomon's Wisdom
- November 8, 2026 2 Kings 5:1–15a, [15b–19] Elisha Heals Naaman
- November 15, 2026 Micah [1:3–5]; 5:2–5a; 6:6–8 Micah
- November 22, 2026 Isaiah 36:1–3, 13–20; 37:1–7; then 2:1–4 Reign of Christ: Swords Into Plowshares

Advent and Christmas

- November 29, 2026 Habakkuk 1:1–4; 2:1–4; 3:[3b–6], 17–19 Advent I: Faith as a Way of Life

Celebrations



Prayers of Concern and Thanks



Alyce Riddle - healing for broken pelvis
Carol Kircher - healing from fall & broken kneecap
Curtis Gierhan - prayers for healing (brother of Ron Gierhan)
David Mikesell - health challenges (husband of Sue Mikesell)
Dale Oakes - health challenges
Dee Espedal-Bracamonte - recovering from a brain bleed and doing well (friend of Barb Chamberlin)
Doris Senica - prayers for healing
Deacon Liz Colver - health challenges
Dennis Heaton - health challenges
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)
Judy Hassing - health challenges (sister of Robin Barker)
Kristin Baylor, Suboccipital Craniectomy Surgery at Swedish Hospital, November 4th
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
Michael Fulton - health challenges (brother-in-law of Linda Jodock)
Monte Redal - healing from back surgery (brother of Laurie Breon)
SueAndersson - hearing is improving little by little! Please keep praying for complete return of full function of hearing.
Those serving in uniform.

Friends and family of:
Doug DeWard
Emilie (Skip) Smith
Margaret (Margie) Hiett-Donnelly

November Calendar 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 9:00a Mission Circle 6:00p Pack 92	4	5 6pm Basketball	6	7
8 10:00a Worship 11:15a Coffee & Coversation 4:00p Men's Basketball	9 6:00p BSA Troop 92	10 6:00p Pack 92	11 Veteran's Day OFFICE/CHURCH CLOSED	12 6pm Basketball	13	14 9am-3:00pm LiVE Retreat at Edmonds United Methodist Church
	6:00p BSA Troop 92	17 9:00a Mission Circle 6:00p Pack 92 7:00p Learning Center Board Mtg	18	19 10:00am Phoebe Circle 12:00p Lunch Bunch @ Gleneagle Restaurant 5:30 Church Council Mtg 6:00 Men's Basketball	20	21
22 10:00a Worship 11:15a Coffee & Coversation 4:00p Men's Basketball	23 6:00p BSA Troop 92	24 6:00p Pack 92	25 10:00a Men's Coffee Fellowship	26 Thanksgiving Day	27 10:00a Comfort Squad Mtg	28
29 10:00a Worship 11:15a Coffee & Coversation 4:00p Men's Basketball	30 6:00p BSA Troop 92					

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615 E Highland Dr
Arlington WA 98223-0333

Share Your FAITH with Others.....

Show Love

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