

November 18, 2026

Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve All People

Prayer of the Week:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son,
that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger;
and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil,
that all my doings and life may please You.
For into Your hands I commend myself,
my body and soul, and all things.
Let Your holy angel be with me,
that the evil foe may have no power over me.
Amen.

Martin Luther's Morning Prayer

Upcoming Greeters and Coffee Hosts:

November 22: Joe Baro and Amy Baro, Greeters; Karen Getzinger, Coffee host.
November 29 – Curt and Lois Eckley, Greeters; Teresa Jacobs, Coffee host

As Sherry recovers, please contact April (april@salc.church)
to be a Sunday greeter or to Host coffee hour.

Worship is at 10:00 AM this Sunday, both in-person and via livestream. Livestream: Visit www.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, November 22:

9:00 AM **Adult Education, PLU President Allan Belton**
Sunday School
10:00 AM **Worship**

Readings for November 22:
Reign of Christ Sunday
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 and Matthew 25:31-46

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

Pastor's Bible Study continues in a hybrid fashion on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 AM. **Contact Pastor Lara by email** (pastor@salc.church) if you would like the Zoom link.

Did you know…

Offsite worship services: At the request of Saint Andrew's members that live at the **Weatherly Inn,** an assisted living community in south Renton, Pastor Lara has begun offering a monthly worship service with Holy Communion there on the fourth Wednesday of the month for any/all residents who may wish to attend. When Jean Wahlstrom is available, she assists with leading the hymns for these services.

We also partner with Our Savior Lutheran Church in Issaquah for a monthly worship service with Holy Communion at **Timber Ridge** on the first Thursday of the month, because there are quite a few residents there that are members of our respective congregations. We alternate months for this service, and Dr. Will provides music for the hymns when it's our month to lead.

From Pastor Lara:

In October, I took a four-week online class called *Growth Without Coercion: Evangelization, Authority, and Discernment in the Church*. It addressed the struggle many churches feel when some Christian communities around them are growing rapidly, while others struggle to sustain momentum. It didn't offer easy answers, but the core question it addressed is: how can churches witness to the Gospel with integrity, freedom, and love without retreating into either timidity or manipulation?

Among the key takeaways for me were that every model of evangelism has strengths and weaknesses, and there isn't one that's perfect. The key strength of each model is that they build a community of belonging. That is, it isn't so much about going out and recruiting members as it is how we receive them when they come into the church space. Genuine growth happens when believers experience real community and commit to growing deeper in faith together.

The instructor also reminded us that truth in Christianity is inseparable from love, and Christian proclamation is loving. What this looks like in practice is the eloquence of our caring and compassion – following the example of Jesus. And that it is only by growing into this love that we understand who God is and what God does.

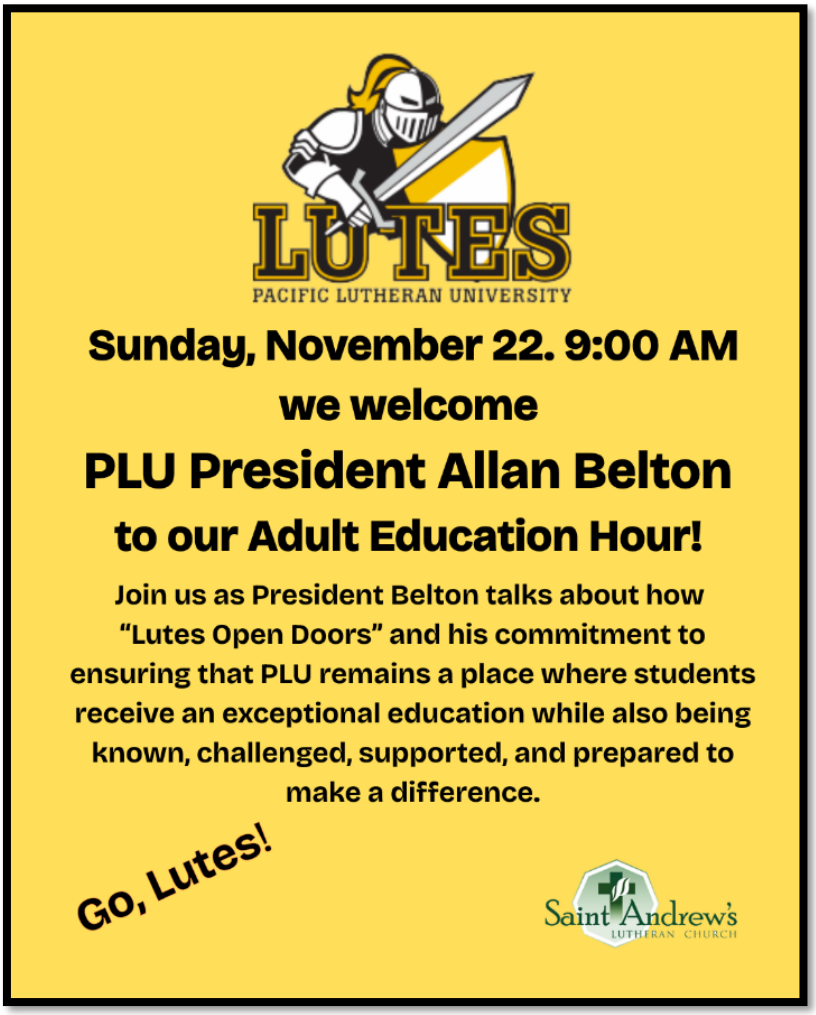
In the final session, the instructor offered another Great Commission, using Jesus' words "do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19 and 1 Corinthians 11:24) – a fundamental request that Jesus made of the disciples before he died. Christ breaks the bread to give himself to us, to unite us in one body. The Christian community, in turn, becomes a bread that is broken and given to the world – and the body grows, becoming an even greater loaf that keeps breaking and growing in size to embrace more and more people.

As the session came to a close, the instructor noted that the church has never done evangelization completely right. But we're getting it more right today than has been done historically. Our duty is to keep the flame burning – to keep doing "this" in memory of Jesus. In another analogy, he reminded us that some seeds can stay in the ground for years because the conditions aren't favorable. But when the conditions change, they flourish. For Christianity, it isn't about finding the successful model; it's about remaining faithful to the gospel. We keep the flame alive. We keep tending the seed so that it's ready to grow.

He continued, reminding us that in the timeline of biblical history, it took 4000 years to prepare the ground for Christ's birth. We're only 2000 years on the other side of that. Numbers and metrics play their role, but they aren't the measure of success. Jesus doesn't tell us to keep counting how many people come to church; he says, "Do this in memory of me." It's the ostinato of Christianity.

This course gave me a lot to think about, and I'm still reflecting on many of the details. In some ways, I wish there were easy answers that lead to church growth. But bearing witness to the Gospel – keeping the flame alive and tending the seed – is the long game. It's what it means to live faithfully. May God continue to give us hearts that are open to this way of living.

With peace,
Pastor Lara



Alumni, Current and Future Lutes and parents, friends of PLU…

We are thrilled to welcome PLU president, Allan Belton, to Saint Andrew's!

Mr. Belton became the 14th president of Pacific Lutheran University in 2017, bringing to the presidency a combination of business acumen, higher education experience, curiosity, and a willingness to challenge convention.
A self-described believer in doing things differently when a better path exists, Belton has embraced the opportunity to lead PLU with both an eye toward what is next and a deep appreciation for what makes the university distinctive.

At the heart of his leadership is a simple belief: people matter, and how we care for one another matters. That belief is deeply connected to PLU's mission and to the university's commitment to educating students for lives of thoughtful inquiry, service, leadership, and care.

Belton often points to PLU's "***Lutes Open Doors"*** ethos as a powerful expression of that culture. For him, holding doors is about more than a gesture – it represents a willingness to notice one another, make room for others, show up, and lead with generosity. It is the kind of care he believes should extend from the classroom to the boardroom and into the broader community.

As president, Belton is committed to ensuring that PLU remains a place where students receive an exceptional education while also being known, challenged, supported, and prepared to make a difference.

Plan to come to meet him at Adult Education on November 22nd – bring your PLU Alum friends!

Council Updates:

President's Report:

"For what does the Lord require of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" **Micah 6:8**
"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." **Matthew 25:35**

Last month, I told you some of the things your council has been discussing. One important conversation centered on how we can better communicate Christ's welcome to those in our community. To that end, we have decided to add signs about this at appropriate places around our facility.

To be welcoming, it is important to be open and inviting to visitors. It is also important to make them feel wanted and safe. There are people in our community who have become hesitant to enter churches out of uncertainty about what might happen there.

Our goal is to make clear two things that have always been true at Saint Andrew's. First, everyone is welcome here. Second, we expect all visitors, including government officials, to follow the appropriate legal procedures when entering non-public areas of our property. The signs simply communicate these longstanding principles in a clear and respectful way.

In doing so, we hope to reflect both the hospitality Christ calls us to extend and the responsibility we have to care for all who enter our doors.

Tom Getzinger,
Council President

New Partnership with 4Tomorrow

The Council is pleased to announce a new partnership with the community support organization 4Tomorrow! In January, we will be launching a pilot mail drop program to assist families currently living in their vehicles in 4Tomorrow's "Secured Parking" area in downtown Bellevue. These individuals will be able to receive mail at Saint Andrew's to ensure its safety and security and hopefully develop community in the process. Karen Getzinger and Beth Donahoe will oversee the organizing and distributing of mail so as not to burden the staff. If you have any questions, please talk to Beth.

2027 Council Member Recruitment



The 2027 Nominating Committee is currently working to identify candidates for the 2027 Congregation Council election at our next annual meeting , January 31, 2027. Please consider recommending candidates you think would be good leaders to serve on the Council. Recommendations should be made by completing a "Nominating Request Form" available in the Narthex and placing it in the collection box located there or by speaking with a member of the Nominating Committee *(Peter Cornwell – Chair, Joyce Arnold, Carol Bostic, Joyce Nelson, & Veda Moretti*). The deadline for receiving suggested nominations has been extended to **December 6,** 2026. If you have questions, please talk with any member of the committee.

Stewardship: It's never too late to commit!!

Our 2027 Stewardship Drive continues! You should have received information via both email and USPS. We encourage you to fill out and return the form, or submit your pledge on line HERE, or with this QR code. Budgeting for 2027 is so much easier when our Council has income information. YOU are what makes this community thrive!



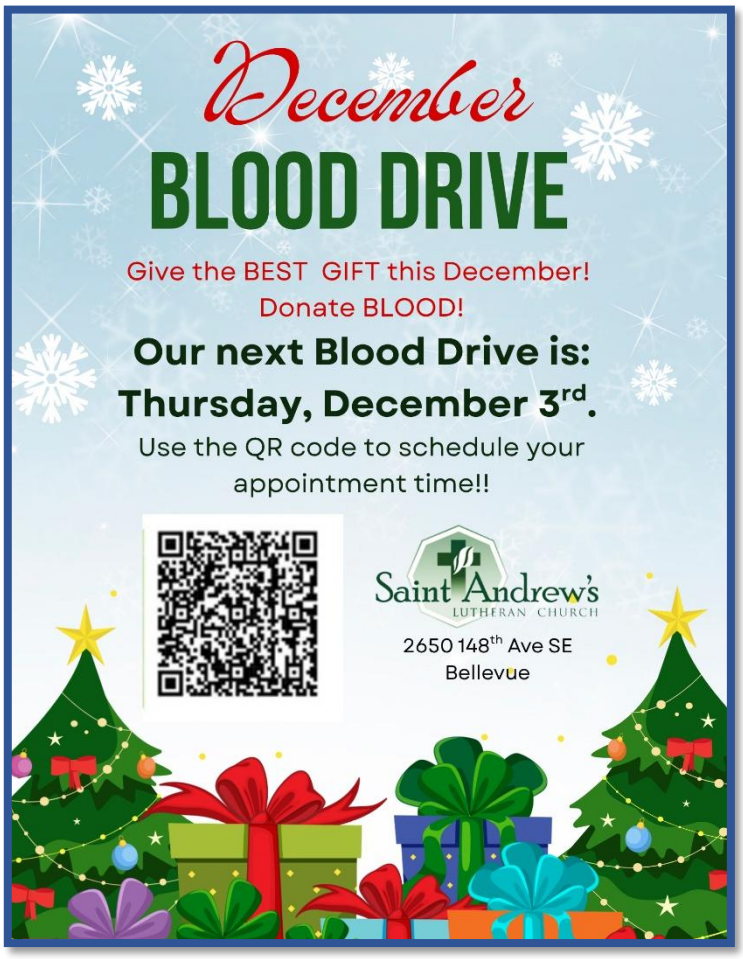
Office Holiday Hours:

As we head into the holiday season, please take note of some of the adjusted office hours:

- **Thursday, November 26, Thanksgiving – Office is Closed**
- **Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve – Office is Closed**
- **Monday – Wednesday, December 28-30 – Reduced office hours; 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM**
- **Thursday, December 31 – Office is closed.**

A reminder that the office is closed every Friday and staff does not check email or phone messages outside of office hours.

- **Regular Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.**



December Blood Drive

The best gift someone might receive is a blood donation!

Please use the QR code on the poster or go HERE to sign up for a time on Thursday, December 3rd! **We have 40 slots … and so far 8 appointments**.

Share with friends and family !

Love Tree:

Our Love tree will be filled with opportunities for you to support ministries at Saint Andrew's beginning November 29th!

You can shop for actual ITEMS (KidVantage, Compass Housing and the Sophia Way) or make a donation (Lantern Hill and MaaSAE Girls School). There will be options to use a Credit Card onsite for donations as well!!

Get ready to share the love ….



Finding Our Place Through the Gifts We've Been Given

When I was a boy growing up in Kentucky, I often felt that I didn't quite fit in. I remember sitting at my desk in school, drumming my fingers on its surface, only to be admonished by my teacher. And rightly so! I was disrupting the classroom. But looking back, I realize that the impulse to make music was already very much a part of who I was.

This past Sunday, as I was playing congas alongside our handbell choir, I found myself thinking about that childhood experience. Here I was, decades later, doing something remarkably similar to what had gotten me into trouble in school—only now I was doing it in church, as part of my life's work! I couldn't help but appreciate the irony.

It also led me to reflect on something deeper.

Throughout my life, I've sometimes felt different from those around me. Music has given me opportunities to develop abilities, explore ideas, and express things that aren't always easy to put into words. And while that sense of being different hasn't entirely disappeared, I've come to appreciate that perhaps we're not all meant to fit into the same mold.

One of the things I treasure most about serving as a church musician is the freedom to be creative. On any given Sunday, I might be playing a Bach fugue on the organ, accompanying our choir, accompanying handbells, playing jazz or gospel, or adding a little percussion to a hymn. Each offers a different opportunity to share something of myself through music.

I believe God gives each of us a particular combination of gifts, personalities, interests, and abilities. We may not always understand why we're made the way we are, and sometimes those very qualities can make us feel out of place.

But perhaps the point isn't always to fit in.

Perhaps it's to discover how the people God has made us to be can contribute something meaningful to the lives of others.

That little boy drumming on his school desk could never have imagined where music would take him. Yet here I am, still making rhythms, still exploring, still learning, and still finding joy in the creative process.

And perhaps that's one of the wonderful things about God's gifts: **what once made us feel different may eventually become the very thing we have to offer the world.**

Will Simpson





Advent Fair:

It's that time already: **ADVENT FAIR** is November 29th; beginning at 8:45 AM and continuing after worship. Our theme is ***"Connections With Crafts".***

We'll be creating:

- Centerpieces for a Christmas lunch for seniors,
- Designing holiday cards for our immigrant neighbors,
- Filling bags with art supplies for local immigrant children,
- Decorating cookies for the firefighters,
- and of course packing grocery bags for Hopelink.

We'll also be having a **BAKE SALE** to cover the cost of the speaker at the Women's Retreat. **Can you donate baked goods**? Or some **Christmas cut-out cookies** to decorate (we need 15 doz). Let April (april@salc.church) know. She's assisting while Sherry heals.

Since we want to fill **100 bags** with art supplies, please consider donating some items from the list below. There's a box (and copies of the shopping list) in the narthex.

ADVENT FAIR CRAFT SUPPLIES WISH LIST

Thank you for your great response! We are still collecting this week! If you'd like to contribute, please consider purchasing some of the items below and return them to the church by Sunday, November 22. The collection box is located in the Narthex under the bulletin board.

Tablets of Drawing Paper	Glue sticks
Crayons	Scissors
Washable Markers	Stickers
Colored Pencils	Erasers

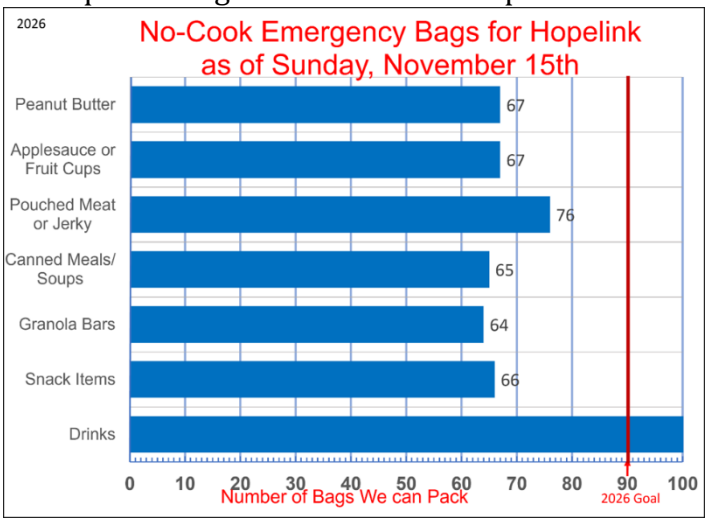
Corner of Blessing
Food of the Month – October & November

This coming Sunday, November 22nd, is the last Sunday to collect food for the Emergency Bags. We currently have enough food to pack 65 bags. As you can see in the Progress Chart below, there are five items right at or about the 65-bag mark. So, those are the items we need most: These are: **Peanut Butter**, **Applesauce/Fruit Cups**, **Canned Meals/Soups**, **Granola Bars** and **Snack Items**.
****All canned items must have a pop-top lid.** Only soups and meals are in cans.
****PAY ATTENTION TO SIZES.** Keeping the weight down is important for homeless. Bigger sizes can't be used.
****MAKE SURE TO CHECK EXPIRATION DATES! They need to be on or after February 2027!****
If shopping is not your thing and you would like to help, a check made out to Saint Andrew's with Emergency Bags in the memo line will be used to buy the food needed to complete the most bags.
There are seven different items that go in each "No-Cook" Emergency Bag. We will be collecting these items during October and November:

- **Peanut Butter** – (~16 oz. plastic jar – no-stir)
- **Applesauce or Fruit Cups Package** – (packages of 4 or 6 cups (about 4-ounce cups), kept in original packaging so that it contains the label and ingredients, ex: peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, applesauce)
- **Pouched Meat or Jerky** – (beef jerky or meat sticks (like slim Jims), pouched meat like tuna, chicken, salmon (Starkist is a common brand) Common sizes for both are about 2.5 - 3 ounces.)
- **Canned Meals/Soups** – (ex: ~15-20 oz, ex: chili, beef stew, canned ravioli, hearty Progresso soups (such as: beef pot roast, chicken pot pie, Italian Wedding, etc. – **Pop-Top lid**)
- **Granola Bars*** – (look for ones that are at least 150 – 200 calories each – total at least 1,000 calories for the 6 bars)
- **Snack Items*** (high in calories & will not crush easily. Ex: dried fruit, nuts, trail mix. Individual packages – look for ones that are at least 100 – 150 calories each - total at least 500 calories for the 5 snack items)
- **Shelf-Stable Drinks** – (Something that does not require refrigeration and will not puncture easily. Ex: juice boxes, water, protein shakes.)

* The granola bars and snack items can be in larger (Costco) packages since we repackage them into Ziplock's of 6 or 5 items.

Here is the progress chart as of November 15th. Check here to see what is needed to pack the most emergency bags:



The Sophia Way updates

The next Sophia Way Lunch being provided by Saint Andrew's is November 25th! We will, again, have the honor to provide lunch for the women who shelter at Sophia's Place.
What's on the menu? ***Meatloaf and mashed potatoes***!!
If you would like to donate some of the food for the meal, or supplies for the pantry, please contact Joyce Arnold (arnoldaj44@hotmail.com) . Items will be collected on Tuesday, November 24th for the lunch on November 25th.

Thank you to all the happy participants in the fire drill two Sundays ago!



A lot of people wanted to have another drill the following week, but we'll wait a while.

The evacuation was orderly, and expeditious at only four minutes! Two areas for improvement: 1) Please help other folks safely exit the building when possible, and 2) The last person should close doors and turn off lights.

Kurt Lutterman



I would like to thank all the members of St. Andrew's for their constant prayers, cards, encouragement, and hugs I have received through this year.

From major surgery in February, 6 months of chemo, several trips to Overlake ER and my last surgery, November 11th, I have felt an outpouring of concern, support and love. I can't tell you all how much it means to John and I.

It hasn't been an easy journey, and there is still healing to be done. Having the blessings of people of faith and compassion in your corner eases the journey and just warms my heart.

Words can't express how grateful I am to you all and how blessed I feel.

God bless and keep you all,
Joyce Nelson

Our Adult Education speaker for November 15, Danielle Caldwell from Eastside Legal Assistance Program, was ill on Sunday morning and couldn't present to us. She will be rescheduling in the future, she is eager to share updates on what ELAP is doing.

Outreach and Servant Ministries

Ministry of the Month for November

***Generous God**, we thank you for all that you provide to meet the needs of all your people. We thank you for the staff and volunteers at KidVantage who help the children in need in our community grow healthy both mentally and physically. Bless and sustain their work. Strengthen our partnership with KidVantage to support their mission. Watch over and protect the families that turn to KidVantage to be able to nourish their babies and provide for their children, keeping them warm, dry, and active. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.*

Help KidVantage prepare Holiday Bags for Kids - November 21st!

- KidVantage needs our help to prepare and pack Holiday Bags for the kids they support! We have a volunteer event at KidVantage on Saturday, November 21st. This is a great way to help KidVantage get ready for the holidays and prepare the gift bags they will distribute to the many kids they support. On November 21st there will be two shifts: 9:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Our volunteers will be helping Saint Andrew's member Liz Rudolph sort, prep and package toys for holiday gifting. The minimum age for youth to help is 14.
- **To volunteer, sign up HERE!**



Who is KidVantage (formerly known as Eastside Baby Corner):

- KidVantage helps children have what they need to grow, play, learn and thrive. They do this by providing essential care, safety and health goods for children who are experiencing the stresses of economic insecurity, systemic inequities, or family disruption.
- Over the last couple of years, KidVantage has seen a significant increase in the number of households depending on them to provide basic needs to ensure healthy happy children. These items include free diapers/wipes, formula, clothing, car seats, household goods (sheets/towels/blankets), school supplies and enrichment through toys, books, and crafts. Diapers are so expensive for some families that they resort to hanging disposable diapers on the clothesline to reuse them.

Opportunities to support KidVantage:

- You can sign up and participate in the volunteer event on Saturday, November 21st.
- You can donate new or gently used items such as clothing, toys, coats, books, etc. at their Issaquah hub. For information go to https://kidvantagenw.org/donate-goods/
- You can contribute financially by going online to the KidVantage website www.kidvantagenw.org or with a check to Saint Andrew's with KidVantage on the memo line.
- This holiday season, you can support KidVantage through our Love Tree. There will be tags on the tree for gifts for KidVantage.

Continued on next page.

How Saint Andrew's and its members are involved in supporting KidVantage:
Saint Andrew's currently supports KidVantage in a number of ways in addition to those mentioned above:

- Saint Andrew's contributes money through the outreach portion of our budget. For 2026 this is $2,200.
- In May, we provide KidVantage with diapers and baby wipes as through their annual Diaper Drive.
- In July, we support KidVantage with much needed items as part of our Christmas in July event.
- Members can contribute their time by volunteering or becoming a core volunteer at the Issaquah Hub! Several of our members are regular volunteers.

Some Background on KidVantage:

- KidVantage, formerly called Eastside Baby Corner, was founded in 1990 by Karen Ridlon. Her background as a pediatric nurse practitioner gave her insight into what kids need for healthy development and what families need to care for their children. With a broken playpen, a few other donated items, grit, determination, and a community network, Karen started KidVantage. Over the past 34 years, KidVantage has grown from Karen's dining room to three locations in King and Kitsap counties.
- More than 80 school districts, health & human service organizations, early learning centers, and food banks are in the KidVantage collaborative network.
- Kids, ages birth through 12, get shoes, diapers, formula, blankets, coats, toys and much more from KidVantage and service partners. KidVantage also provides for expectant and postpartum mothers, supplying maternity wear, personal care goods, and mother-infant support items. Kids are warm, healthy, safe and better prepared to fulfill their own potential.



The Eastside Lutheran Church Community (ELCC) are the ELCA churches on the eastside. WE have opportunity to share worship, resources, and events – separately and collectively. While we often share and collaborative service activities and worship opportunities.

Be sure to check out the website HERE.

An ELCC newsletter is in the works! Sign up to receive the links!

Newsletter opt-in instructions:

1. Go to the ELCC website and scroll to the bottom of the HOME page
2. View the Newsletter Signup section - add your email and press the SUBSCRIBE link
3. Now go to your email inbox and find the Tithe.ly email asking you to verify your email address, and then you are done!

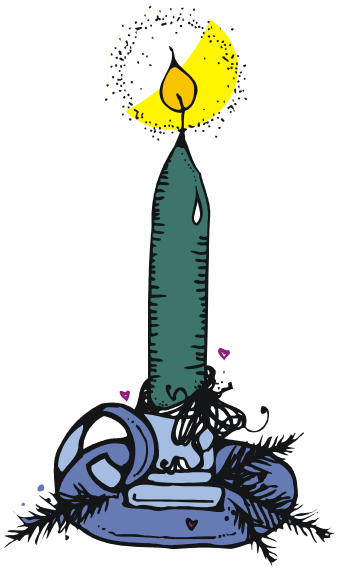




Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Mercer Island, is hosting a midweek (Wednesday) soup supper and worship service during the Advent season.

Here are the details:

- **Wednesday, December 2nd, 9th, and 16th**
- **5:45 PM - 7PM Soup Supper**
  (sign up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084BACA72EA7FD0-66119176-2026#/)
- **7 - 7:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer Worship Service**
- Zoom option - Email office@htlcmi.org to receive the Zoom details.





While the other ELCC Congregations are 'flanneling up' on November 22nd, we are choosing to do it in conjunction with our Advent Fair … so – get those flannels out for November 29th!

Calendar

Wednesday, November 18
12:00 PM ELCC Pastor's Meeting

Thursday, November 19
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, November 20
6:00 PM Sock Samuri

Saturday, November 21

Sunday, November 22
9:00 AM Adult Education, *PLU President Belton*
Sunday School
10:00 AM Worship

Monday, November 23
1:00 PM Staff Meeting
6:00 PM ELF Meeting, online

Tuesday, November 24
8:30 AM Tuesday Morning Men
10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study
2:00 PM Sophia Way Lunch supplies drop off

Wednesday, November 25
10:30 AM Sophia Way Lunch delivery
2:00 PM The Weatherly Worship Service

Thursday, November 26
Happy Thanksgiving! Office is closed

Friday, November 27

Saturday, November 28
10:00 AM Altar Guild, Decorate Christmas Tree
Advent Fair Set Up

Sunday, November 29
First Sunday of Advent – Wear Flannel Sunday!!
9:00 AM Advent Fair
10:00 AM Worship
6:00 PM ELCC Advent Worship, St. Luke's Bellevue

Monday, November 30
1:00 PM Staff Meeting
6:00 PM ELF Meeting, online

Tuesday, December 1
8:30 AM Tuesday morning Men
9:30 AM Dorcas Circle
10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study
7:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 2

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 Rykaczewski, Handbell Choir Director
Elaine Koga, Choir Accompanist
Andrew Camrud, 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: