Trendings

November 25, 2026

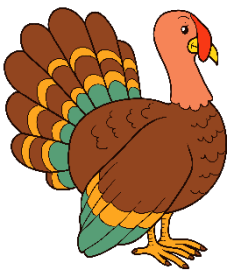
Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve All People

Happy Thanksgiving

Prayer of the Week:

Almighty God, your generous blessings come to us new every day.
By the work of your Spirit,
lead us to acknowledge your goodness,
give thanks for your benefits,
and serve you in willing obedience,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. ***Amen.***

ELW Prayer for Thanksgiving Day



Upcoming Greeters and Coffee Hosts:

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 29:

9:00 AM ADVENT FAIR!
10:00 AM Worship

Readings for November 29:
First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 64:1-9 and Mark 13:24-37

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.

bravo

Thanks to **Luke Davis** for stepping up as acolyte on Sunday! Our acolyte crew is very faithful, but sometimes unplanned things come up. We appreciate how you all can step in when needed!

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for your wonderful prayers, encouraging cards, and healing wishes. It's working! I'm better and hope to see you all soon.
Sherry

A Thrill of Hope – Advent 2026

"O Holy Night" is frequently listed in people's top five favorite Christmas hymns – and for good reason. It captures the depth of longing the world felt as it waited for the Messiah to be born, and then proclaims the hope that Christ's birth fulfilled, even going so far as to call it "a thrill of hope."

The dictionary defines "thrill" as a sudden feeling of excitement and pleasure, and also as a wave or nervous tremor of emotion. During Advent each year, we lean into that feeling as we anticipate Christ's birth *and* Christ's return.

Our Advent theme this year, *A Thrill of Hope*, allows us to lean into that feeling even more. Using resources from *Illustrated Ministry* in our worship, we will hear the familiar prophecies of the Messiah, the story of Jesus' birth, and the world's response to it (Epiphany). There will also be devotional resources available for you to use at home.

As we read these texts, we will also explore how they inform our faith. Because, as we know, the first followers of Jesus didn't just keep his story as a distant memory, nor did they defer salvation as a future hope. Empowered and filled by the Holy Spirit, they remembered Jesus and became witnesses to what God had done and was still doing in their community. In the midst of fear, uncertainty, and imperial violence, they told and retold these stories so that the work of the kingdom of God would remain alive in their communities and continue through future generations.

Their witness proclaimed a salvation that was past, present, and still to come:

> The Messiah <u>saved</u> us.
> The Messiah <u>is saving</u> us.
> The Messiah <u>will save</u> us.

We continue this witness in our proclamation today because the miracle of Immanuel did not end in Bethlehem. A thrill of hope persists. May it empower you to proclaim God's activity in your life and in our world, in this season and beyond.
Pastor Lara



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: 2027 Pledge Drive Update



Great news! In *just the first two weeks* of our 2027 pledge drive we have received over 40 pledges totaling over $300,000! That is a wonderful start. Planning for next year's budget has already started. The earlier we receive your pledge the easier it is to plan for our future. You can fill out the form online with the QR code or going HERE.

We are also still working to close out our 2026 budget year. Please check out the giving vs budget progress thermometer on the bulletin board in the narthex.

And be sure to check the upcoming opportunities to share your time and talents to help others at this Sunday's Advent Fair. To learn about a wider range of ways to serve our community come to the JEDI Adult Education Hour on Dec 13th .

Thanks for your ***giving***.



Mark Davis
Council Stewardship representative

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 !





These Elves were busy getting all the gift tags on the Love Tree!! Thank you April, Jean, Janell, Cheryl and Pat!

Love Tree:

Our annual LOVE TREE is up and filled with tags!! Your donations of items or financial support are life-changing for these organizations! Look ON THE TREE for each of these organizations:

- **The MaaSAE Girls' School uniform drive:** 65 new students will start in January. $75 outfits them! Goal is to raise between $3000 (50%) and $6000 (100%) of costs.
- **KidVantage**: If you LOVE buying toys, books, games …. Please shop early! The BEST time to get those is by December 6th for Christmas deliveries. ALL items will be delivered and welcomed throughout the drive.
- **The Sophia Way gift cards**: So appreciated by the women they serve.
- **Compass Housing**: The comfort of sweat pants and shirts cannot be overstated!
- **Lantern Hill**: They are growing! Your donations provide classroom supplies and building materials for new buildings.

Great news! You can use a Credit or Debit cards for donations!!!



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 hosted by The Circle,
- Designing holiday cards for our immigrant neighbors,
- Filling bags with art supplies for local immigrant children,
- Making Random Acts of Kindness bags to pass out.
- 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 a ***Future Baked Good***? Let April (april@salc.church) know. She's assisting while Sherry heals.

We will be able to take credit or debit card payments for the Bake Sale (or bring cash) and any Love Tree items you'd like to financially support !!

The Corner of Blessing has been blessed, indeed! Your donations will make it possible to fill 100 no-cook grocery bags for our friends at Hopelink at the Advent Fair.

Big thanks to Debbie and Dick for their attention to all the details that make this possible.



Corner of Blessing

Food of the Month – December

For the month of December Hopelink has asked us to collect **Meals**! This includes **Canned Meals** (like beef stew, chili and canned ravioli), **Hearty soups** (like Progresso, Chunky Campbells and Amy's) and **Dry Meals** – just add water (shelf-stable microwavable meals like Hormel Completes, Cup Noodles and microwavable Mac & Cheese).





















Stella Nieman, pictured here at the Covenant Living at the Shores Clergy Lunch on November 12th, peacefully died on November 19th. Arrangements for her memorial service are pending.

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

And we will kick start our December Corner of Blessing by bringing canned chili or hearty soups!

Kathy will be taking a 'Flannel Sunday' photo, so find that favorite plaid !!



All Together in One Place: The Peace of Christ



November 20, 2026

During a recent visit to Upstate New York, I learned about the Haudenosaunee (HOH-din-oh-SHOH-nee) people, past and present. In the 12th century, long before the framing of the U.S. Constitution, the Haudenosaunee established the Great Law of Peace. The Great Law of Peace, crafted by the Great Peacemaker (Deganawidah) and Hiawatha, united five historically warring nations under the canopy of peace.

Centuries later, this Haudenosaunee Confederacy inspired leaders of the British colonies to work together as a unified federation. The result of the Great Law of Peace was a diverse body made stronger because its members were connected. Eventually the Great Law of Peace inspired and influenced the authors of the U.S. Constitution. These contributions were unacknowledged for years as the U.S. government continued to violently and systemically erode Indigenous life and community.

Finally, in 1988, the U.S. Congress formally recognized the contribution made by the Haudenosaunee Confederacy "and other Indian Nations to the formation and development of the United States" (H.Con.Res. 331, 1988). It is a contribution that shapes us today as a nation; we are stronger when we are connected.

It is essential to understand that the Great Law of Peace did not require people to ignore their differences. Generations of Haudenosaunee continue to hold this value of being connected as central to peace.

The peace of Christ, though different from national peace, does not require Christians to be the same or to ignore their differences. The Holy Spirit has already given peace through Christ.

Peace for the early Christian communities did not come from everyone being alike. Then, as now, we keep the peace of Christ by engaging our differences and making space for each other. The social statement *For Peace in God's World* reminds us that "God's steadfast resolve for peace encompasses our time as it does all times" and that "'the Gospel of peace' (Ephesians 6:15) heals our broken relationship with God, removing the ultimate root of violence and injustice" (p. 3). Our differences carry both promise and peril. People of differing identities, ideas and ways of living are made stronger when they are connected.

As Christians, we are connected through the waters of baptism and the unity of the Holy Spirit. This month, as some gather to celebrate Thanksgiving and others to commemorate the Day of Mourning, we remember both lessons learned from the history of the early church and those offered by peoples who lived on this land later called the United States.

Continued on the next page.

Our shared history is both broken and woven, horrific and hopeful. The gospel of peace does not ask us not to ignore our complicated history but rather proclaims that "[Christ] is our peace; in his flesh he has ... broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us" (Ephesians 2:14). In the gospel of peace, the hostility that often thrives on difference is removed as Christ, "our peace," creates a connectedness that draws us more deeply into community with one another.

In the coming weeks, let us give thanks for the Great Law of Peace among nations, and let us praise God for the gospel of peace that unites us in Christ Jesus across difference as we pray for peace that is still to come and keep the peace the Holy Spirit already gives us today.

In Christ,



A PLU Christmas: Light Beyond Shadow

Join us for our popular series of PLU Christmas Concerts as the Choir of the West, University Chorale, and University Symphony Orchestra present Light Beyond Shadow. Come celebrate the spirit of the Christmas season and leave inspired by thrilling and poignant music that evokes transcendent themes of light, joy, love, peace, and hope. This year's performance will be approximately 110 minutes, including a 15-minute intermission.

Schedule:

December 7 at 7:30pm in Benaroya Hall

Tickets are on sale now - https://www.plu.edu/christmas/

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!

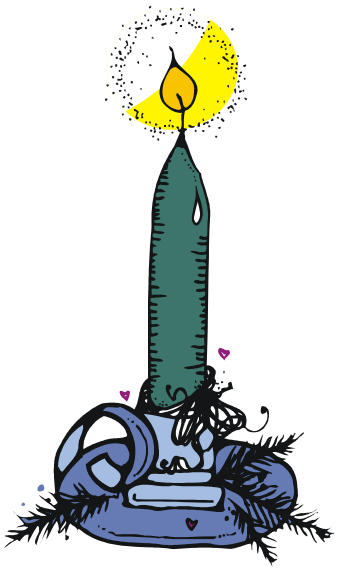




Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Mercer Island, is hosting a midweek (Wednesday) soup supper and worship service during the Advent season.

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.



Calendar

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

Thursday, December 3
9:00 AM BLOOD DRIVE
10:00 AM Grace Book Group
2:00 PM Timber Ridge Worship
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 4

Saturday, December 5

Sunday, December 6
Second Sunday of Advent
9:00 AM Adult Education, Bible Study
Sunday School
10:00 AM Worship
4:00 PM Hillary Nordwell Concert

Monday, December 7
10:30 AM Health and Wholeness
1:00 PM Staff
6:00 PM Finance Committee, online
7:00 PM Executive Council Meeting, online

Tuesday, December 8
8:30 AM Tuesday Morning Men
10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study
7:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 9
2:30 PM Care Team Meeting, online

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: