Imagine yourself as one of the ancient Israelites, newly freed from oppression and enslavement in Egypt. You stand at the edge of the Red Sea, where Pharaoh’s forces have just been swallowed by the waves. In front of you is the wilderness and a long, long journey back home. So many questions are unanswered: what will you eat? How will you stay safe? How will your community endure? And how will you worship together in an unknown place?

For over a year, we have traveled through the wilderness of pandemic, with hard and painful losses along the way. And now we stand at the edge of a new journey – not backward, but forward. So many questions are still unanswered: how long will it take? How can we begin to mend the brokenness laid bare in these times? And how will we worship together?

Until they made it to their sanctuary, the Israelites worshipped at a tabernacle: a worship space that could travel with them as they made their way home. It wasn’t the same as the temple, but it was the promise and presence of God every bit as real and steadfast as they had ever known. God was moving forward with them as they worshipped in new and creative ways. So they worshipped outside, with new patterns and prayers, but with room for everyone as they journeyed together. Can you really worship if you’re not quite home yet? These ancient stories remind us: Yes!

Starting on Sunday, June 20th, you’re invited to in-person worship at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church. Parking Lot Worship begins that day with two services, at 9:00am and 10:30am. More details will be coming in the eNews, but we are eagerly anticipating this new way to gather safely together over the summer. We’ll ask you to RSVP a few days in advance, either for a parking stall, or to park off-site and bring a chair to sit outside. We’ll celebrate communion at all services. While we continue to look forward to the time that singing - and making other kinds of music - together in person can safely and effectively return, we will be offering recorded music in all the ways HSLC is worshiping. As the summer continues, look forward to experimentation and creativity as in-person, live music is incorporated into in-person gatherings.

Worship services will be shorter than usual so that we can spend time reconnecting with each other. And we are committed to continuing online worship as we move forward. We’ll also continue to actively monitor the trends in King County and look to our local authorities and the CDC for guidance as we continue to plan for more ways to worship in person.

Our journey together continues, but what we know for sure is this: God’s faithfulness is with us all the way. In our homes, in our sanctuary, and yes – in the parking lot too. We can’t wait to see you for worship this summer!

Men’s Retreat-Saturday June 12

Men are invited to bring a chair and a cup of coffee on June 12 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm to the Labyrinth for a men’s mini-retreat. Share in good conversation and fellowship. There is no formal agenda, so drop in and drop out as needed if you can’t stay all morning. Lunch provided at noon to share a meal together before departing for the afternoon. Contact Mark Weiseth via the church office for more information and to RSVP.
A Letter from Pastor Mike

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I move into the retirement chapter of life this June, I pause to remember with fondness and humility the honor of serving the gospel of Jesus Christ with all of you. Holy Spirit Lutheran Church is a wonderful, vibrant, courageous, and faithful congregation and I thank God for the privilege of serving with you these past 36 years. Soon I will be preparing my final sermon for June 13 and I must say, although thoughts of past ministry flood my mind, I am excited about the future of HSLC. Pastor Katy and an extraordinary staff will lead the congregation in the years ahead with wisdom, enthusiasm, and creativity. It has been a joy for me to work with such dedicated and competent professionals; HSLC is blessed to have such leaders. I must also offer a public word of thanks to my wife, Patty, and daughter, Sara, for the support and love I have received over the years. Even when ministry took me away from them, they never hesitated to understand and encourage my calling to serve HSLC. Now, with this new chapter, I will spend quality time with Patty, Sara, and our Minnesota parents.

My future involvement with HSLC will include some part-time work primarily around teaching. (Please see the following article on a “virtual” Crossways Bible Study program.) Although our family may attend HSLC in the future, it is important – essential really – for us to take at least a year away. Please know we will not be attending worship, church social activities, programs, or committees; and I will not be presiding at weddings, memorial services, or baptisms. This separation will give the congregation time to bond with the new pastor and give me time to adjust to no longer being in a leadership role. My prayers are with all of you as you continue the important calling to “proclaim and embody the compassionate, challenging, inclusive love of God revealed in Jesus Christ.”

The personnel committee thanks Pastor Mike for his years of service and leading Holy Spirit to where it is today. We invite the congregation to send notes of appreciation either by email to pastormike@hslckirkland.org or letter to the church physical address. He has mentioned to us that he would especially enjoy hearing your response to the following prompt: “Pastor Mike, I remember when…”

Call Committee Update

At their April meeting, the Church Council approved the Ministry Site Profile prepared by the Call Committee, which is our formal application to the Synod for the call of an Associate Pastor.

The Committee met with Rev. Andy Yee, the Bishop’s Assistant, to review our Ministry Site Profile in preparation for posting this opening. Our application was approved by the Synod and was posted on the Synod website on April 29. The posting remains open for at least 30 days. During that time, Rev. Yee will review rostered pastors’ applications to prepare a slate of candidates for our consideration. The Committee will select and interview those individuals who we believe most closely align with our ministerial priorities to determine our candidate of choice.

While all candidates must be referred to us through the Synod, the Synod accepts nominations from our congregation of other pastors that we know and would like to see considered. This may include pastors who have not openly expressed interest in being called to another congregation. Nominations will be forwarded to Rev. Yee who will make confidential inquiries to these individuals to determine their interest and qualifications for our call.

If there is an ELCA pastor that you believe might be a wonderful addition to the pastoral staff of Holy Spirit, please email this information to Pastor Katy at pastorkaty@hslckirkland.org.
Welcome 2021 Confirmands!

Sunday, April 25, most of HSLC’s confirmation class of 2021 gathered in the church parking lot for a masked and physically distant Affirmation of Baptism service led by Pastor Katy. Confirmation leaders, family, and friends joined to welcome and celebrate Holy Spirit’s newly confirmed members of the congregation. Two students (see inset) were confirmed the week prior, as they were unable to attend the official ceremony.

This special day was the culmination of three years of study, friendship building, questioning, and service.

Congratulations to the Confirmation class of 2021: Liliana Castle, Zander Cole, Kyra Dennie, Chaia Erling, Clara Hanley, Fiona Johnson, Allie Martin, Christopher Pruitt, Josh Reeder, Ava Rodgers, Bradley Rodgers, Samuel Rospo, Fiona Sauze, Josh Tyler, Katelyn Underhill, Alena Wachowski. Remember, this is just a small part of your life-long faith journey! There are many more blessings to come!

Thank you so much to our team of small group leaders! Lisa Bean, Pete Daoura, Joan Carro, John Koch, Athena Rospo, Marc Sauze, Colleen Tyler.

Virtual Crossways Bible Study

Pastor Mike’s continued involvement with HSLC includes a “virtual” Crossways Bible Study program. Crossways Bible Study is a two-year class which includes an academic reading of the entire Bible. It gives the historical, theological, and cultural context of the scriptures and will be taught in a new format. Each Sunday afternoon beginning September 19, those registered for the class will receive an email with the week’s recorded lecture. Then, on Thursday evenings, at 7:00 pm PT, Pastor Mike will host a Zoom call for all students to discuss and ask questions. Small group conversation will also be an important part of the Zoom meeting. From September through May in the first year, students will read the Old Testament, with the New Testament beginning in September 2022. Registration will be simple, just watch your eNews for registration link to Holy Spirit’s website for Fall Faith Formation opportunities.

Offering Crossways in this format encourages people outside Holy Spirit and beyond our geographic area to participate. It is Pastor Mike’s hope that HSLC church members, especially those who have taken Crossways, will become advocates of the program and invite family, friends, neighbors, and anyone interested to register.
Join us for Online Worship!

Annual Meeting—Sunday, June 27, 2021, 12:00 PM

We gather virtually for this annual meeting of the congregation. Your participation, leadership, and vote are vital to the life of this church. We will review financial status and changes to the HSLC Constitution and Bylaws and vote on both of these Council-recommended items.

Look for Zoom and phone in options in the weekly eNews.

Property Work Party—June 26 8:30 am

You are invited to join the Property Committee on Saturday, June 26, for a work party to spread bark mulch on the planting beds, fill the low spots and the holes in the lawn area used by the preschool with topsoil, and install a plastic grid in the lawn at the end of the wheelchair ramp. If you love to pressure wash, bring your pressure washer and you can clean the concrete surfaces around the church.

The work party will be held with the assistance of Scouting Troops 570, 8570 and Pack 567. More details will be shared via eNews. We hope to have a group of 30-40 individuals and complete the tasks by early afternoon. Thank you in advance if you can join us. If you have a wheelbarrow, a shovel, or a rake please bring them.