At Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

We believe we are called by the Holy Spirit to proclaim and embody the compassionate, challenging, and inclusive love of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

New Chapters Ahead

Summer is often a time when I try to read the books I bought all year long, telling myself, “I’ll get to that one eventually.” By August, I usually have a solid stack ready to go, waiting for me – and this year’s stack was tall enough that I wondered if I would get to the end (spoiler alert: I didn’t). Some of my favorites so far: The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together, by Heather McGhee; John Lewis and the Power of Hope, by Jon Meacham; The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue, by V.E. Schwab; The Last Thing He Told Me, by Laura Dave; and Miss Benson’s Beetle, by Rachel Joyce. (Next up: Facing the Mountain, by Daniel James Brown.)

At times I found myself wondering if I should peek ahead to the end of the book just to see how it ends. Maybe I’d feel better about the suspenseful stories, the unsolved mysteries, the troubling characters if I could just skip all the hard stuff in the middle and go straight for the wrap-up. Once you know that it all ends well, it’s a lot easier to make it through all the messy stuff in the middle, right?

Wouldn’t it be great if we could fast forward like that in life? Speed through the struggle – the Delta variant, the wait for kids to be vaccine-eligible, the questions about how to live safely and yet well – and just get to the end. It’s been a long story, and we’re not through it yet. It’s okay to be tired. It’s okay to wish we could just wake up to a happy ending.

And yet, good things are happening too – all kinds of new and exciting chapters, right here in the middle. In this newsletter you’ll see several stories about the amazing work of volunteers who built a tiny house in the midst of heat and smoke and while wearing their masks. You’ll hear about our middle schoolers who supported the Social Impact Center at the YMCA and Hopelink as part of their stay-home-service-camp in August. You’ll find opportunities to continue learning and growing in faith with online classes on Contemplative Prayer and Pastor Mike’s new BibleLens class beginning in October.

You’ll meet our new office administrator, Joan Friel – welcome, Joan! We’re so happy you’re here. And you’ll notice that, as of September 12th, we are resuming our Sunday morning worship schedule of services.

Mark Your Calendars!

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, September 12th at noon

Agenda: Voting to extend a call to Pastor Gina Herman

Watch for more details in the weekly eNews!
(not getting the eNews? Send an e-mail to office@hslckirkland.org)
Letter from Pastor Katy (continued)

at 8am, 9:30am, and 11am. (Keep those masks on!)

And we are so delighted to announce the recommendation of Pastor Gina Herman as our new associate pastor! Please watch your eNews for details about the congregational meeting on September 12 at which we will vote on her call. Many of you met Pastor Gina when she visited us in mid-August; an email introducing her should already have arrived in your inbox by the time you receive this newsletter.

Even here, even now, while we are still adjusting and learning and changing plans yet again – even here, in the messy middle, new chapters are filled with new possibilities. Because what we hold to, together, is the promise that no matter where we find ourselves, God is waiting there for us. We do know the end: love wins. We know that we are called to proclaim and embody the compassionate, challenging, inclusive love of God no matter where we are. Next up: the chapters of justice and joy that are waiting ahead.

In peace,
Pastor Katy

Tiny House Project

For people who find themselves in a homeless situation, Tiny Houses is one avenue out. The Tiny House we built over these last couple weeks will bridge that gap for individuals, reconnecting them to their basic needs and a community. The 8 foot by 12 foot house we built will be moved to a LIHI (Low Income Housing Institute) central location and then become part of a Tiny House Village in the Seattle area or in Western Washington. Not just one person but a number of people will use this Tiny House. The villages have food and water, a central kitchen, showers and a hygiene center. They have employment counselors, drug and alcohol programs, finance personnel and other paid and volunteer staff to help them build a pathway back into the greater community at large and be self-sustaining again. It is not true that people want to stay here on a “Free-Ride”. They are eager to get back up and out on their own again. When we build this Tiny House - where we pound nails, cut boards, paint and sweep, get dirty and tired – we are making a difference in a number of people’s lives – a person like us who hit hard times. We are responding to Jesus’ call to be healing hands in this world. I personally thank you all who participated in making the world a better place.

Those who participated in this project were:

Robert Boreson  Bill Carberry  Katie Dahlman  Kim Dahlman
Bob Dudzik  Bill Garrity  Tena Hanson  Sue Harvey
Eric Henrikson  Doug Jacobson  Veronica Knudson  Mike May
Lawson Patton-Horta  Calvin Pygott  Samuel Rospo  Jennifer Williams

And the Administrative staff at HSLC -
Joan Friel, Marjorie Buchanan, Tammie Zarfos and Pastor Katy.

And at LIHI –
Brad Gerber, Amanda Eason, and Becca Finkes.

(Please forgive me if I misspelled or left out your name.)

Thank you one and all!

Robert Boreson
Lead Carpenter
Jr. High Summer Youth Stay-at Home Mission Trip
by Tammie Zarfos

It was an amazing week of teamwork, connections and making a difference in the world. It is hard to explain in a few words and pictures, but I will do my best. Throughout the week, there were 21 youth (8th and 9th graders) and 11 adults who made up the mission trip team.

We had lots going on that week, including working on a tiny house. We worked with a non-profit called LIHI (Low Income Housing Institute) in Seattle. They pick up the tiny house when it is finished and it will be placed in one of the tiny house villages in Seattle, where it will become a home for someone who needs one. Under the guidance of our fabulous contractor, Robert Boreson and his awesome assistant, Cal Pygott, we measured, cut, nailed, primed, painted, raised 4 walls and ended up with a great start to the tiny house project! What an incredible learning experience – thank you, Robert and Cal! Our tiny house is dedicated in memory of Pete Schnebele. Judy Schnebele joined us to share with the youth about Pete and his beautiful heart for people and the community. We all signed the inside walls of the tiny house and left a little part of our hearts inside to send blessings to the person(s) who will call this place home.

We gathered and sorted a TON of school supplies to support the Social Impact Center at the YMCA. Our very own Michael Jackson came to speak to us about the Y and the incredible services they offer. He came with his SUV on Friday to pick up the school supplies and they did not all fit! He had to make 2 trips! Thank you all for the donations! See the thank-you note:

Tammie, Michael just dropped off the donations and wow! Thank you so much for all your leadership and making this project happen. Our programs are going to be so excited to be able to offer these amazing gifts/donations to our young people. I am so glad that we got connected with y’all!

Rebecca Kuhn | Community and Volunteer Program Manager (she/her)
Y Social Impact Center | Research & Administration

Food was a big part of our week. We gathered each day at lunch time in the big grassy area behind the church to eat and connect and share about the day. 2 breaks a day included lots of eating and sharing time as well, but the biggest food impact was the work we did to share food with people who don’t have enough to eat. We sorted the big pile of food that was collected at Vacation Bible School and took it to HopeLink in Kirkland. We sorted the mountains of donations of granola bars, protein snacks, drinks, crackers, tuna kits, candy, sanitizing wipes, socks, toothbrushes/toothpaste, and lots of other various items that we stuffed into gallon-sized Ziploc bags. We made over 500 of these ‘blessing bags’ that will be distributed out into the community – some through the YMCA but most through Operation Night Watch in downtown Seattle in honor of Pete Schnebele. We also collected over 100 boxes of breakfast cereal that will go to Northwest Harvest, but we had a team competition creating a Domino display first. Check out the Holy Spirit Facebook page to see the videos!

It was an incredible week and one I will remember for many, years to come. Special thanks to Jennifer Williams for all the help and expertise all week and to Colleen Thompson for the daily popsicles! I also want to thank the adult helpers – Kristen Bourke, Maria Frederiksen, Tena Hanson, Eric Henrikson, Beth Shore, Stephanie Vargas, Mark Wegener, and Jennifer Williams - I could not have done this without their help!
Financial Status as of: 7/31/21

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Sign up for Flowers!

The 2021 Flower Signup Chart is now available in the narthex. Please sign up to provide flowers during our Sunday worship services between now and the end of the year. If there is a special designation (such as an anniversary), please note that as well. You may bring flowers from your garden in a vase from home, or order a bouquet from a local florist or grocery store. Please be sure to take them home after worship on that Sunday.

Confirmation Leaders Needed!

Are you looking to make a difference? The Confirmation program is looking for adults to serve as small group leaders for our incoming 7th grade youth as they begin their three-year confirmation program! You will get to hang out with this group on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 pm (September through March) for large and small group time. An annual retreat and several service projects round out the year. No Biblical expertise necessary – just a passion for young people! Interested or want to know more? Contact Tammie Zarfos at confirmation@hslckirkland.org.

Welcome to our new Office Administrator!

Joan Friel has joined the staff at HSLC as office administrator. A lifelong Lutheran and native Washingtonian, Joan grew up in the no-stoplight town of South Bend, and attended college at Pacific Lutheran University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science with a minor in English/writing. She worked as a computer programmer for The Boeing Company after graduation, but “retired” in 1997 when she became a full-time mom to her daughter Megan and continued after her son Michael was born in 2000. After many, many years of volunteering in classrooms, attending PTA meetings, chaperoning field trips, and helping with homework, she is thrilled to have a career of her own once again. Joan’s husband Mike is also a computer programmer, working for WPAS, Inc. in Mercer Island. If you visit the church office on Fridays, you will see Joan wearing blue (go Hawks!), and she is always ready to attend a Mariners’ game. Joan is an active member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Issaquah.
Exploring Contemplative Prayer

“We must wake up from our hurried existence, from sleepwalking through the gift of our life, and reconnect and re-member with God, our self, and one another. We are all essential to the solution needed here and now, and contemplative prayer is the threshold to understanding and healing our inner universe so we project and work effectively toward an outer existence that is more aligned with the heart of God.” Phileena Heuertz

You are invited to join members of our community in exploring the Christian contemplative tradition, using Mindful Silence: The Heart of Christian Contemplation, a book and film series by Phileena Heuertz.

The sessions will include prayer, a video, discernment and discussion, deeper listening/journaling, and a simple meditation practice to take with you into the week. Please purchase the book from your favorite bookseller prior to the start of class. If this is a financial hardship, let us know.

This class will be held via Zoom on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 PM from September 23, 2021 to November 18, 2021. Christina Brugman will be your facilitator. To register, visit https://www.hslckirkland.org/adult-education.

BibleLens with Pastor Mike

Pastor Mike is so very excited to share with you an invitation to join a new version of the two-year Bible study course he has been teaching at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church for the past 36 years! We will call this class "BibleLens" and it will be taught entirely virtually! Each Sunday of the academic year, beginning October 3, we will release to the email addresses of those registered a recorded lecture about a biblical book. Students will be able to watch the lecture at their leisure in your own home and then, if they choose, join a 7:00 pm Thursday evening Zoom conference call to discuss and consider questions related to the lecture. (Those registered will receive a Zoom link.)

This "BibleLens" course will give the participants the historical, theological, and contextual background to every Biblical book. Although the class is primarily academic and challenging, it is not “difficult.” By that we mean we consider big ideas – graduate-level ideas – but there are no tests, papers, or homework other than reading the bible. People who have taken the course in the past have told me they have never heard some of the ideas presented and it opened the Bible in new and profound ways for them.

Registration for the class will be completely online through the following link: https://www.hslckirkland.org/biblelens. Everyone is welcome to attend this virtual program and we especially encourage people who may not be members of Holy Spirit Lutheran and, because it is completely virtual, geography is of no concern. Anyone, anywhere, will be able to participate! Finally, we hope HSLC members will publicize this class with anyone you think may be interested – just share the registration link!

Position Opening: Custodian

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church is accepting applications for a part-time Custodian. The position’s hours vary depending on church building schedule. Responsibilities include custodial, janitorial, and light maintenance to maintaining a clean, safe, and welcoming environment. The suitable candidate will have proven customer service experience, the ability to work independently, strong communication skills, and enjoy being challenged by a varied workday.

Please send resume and letter of interest to Marjorie Buchanan at parishadmin@hslckirkland.org.
Sunday, Sept. 5th Worship times - 9:00 and 10:30 AM
Beginning on Sept. 12th
Worship on Sundays - 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 AM

Please RSVP (website or eNews link) or fill out welcome card Sunday morning

Masks required for all over 2 years of age

Online Worship continues

Go Paperless!

If you’d like to reduce waste and not receive a paper copy of this monthly newsletter, please let us know. A digital copy of this monthly newsletter comes out with our weekly enews updates, and is also available via our website. Contact office@hslickirkland.org to update your communication preferences. Thank you!