Welcome Pastor Gina!

At the congregational meeting on September 12, the church approved a request to issue a call to Pastor Gina Herman to become the new Associate pastor at Holy Spirit. This was the culmination of 7 months’ worth of work by the Holy Spirit call committee. This committee was led by Deborah May and included Jeff Churchill, Maya Held, Mike Murphy, Kathy Olsen, Luke Pelton and Hillary Wirkkala. They met via Zoom nearly every week during that time and interviewed 7 initial candidates before making their unanimous selection of Pastor Gina. Pastor Gina is planning to assume her position on November 1 and is tentatively planned to be fully installed on November 7, All Saints Sunday. Our thanks goes out to Deborah and the team for their dedication. Pastor Gina will be making arrangements to say goodbye to her current congregation and move to this area. Please hold her and her family in prayer as they say both goodbye and hello, all at the same time.

An Extraordinary Gift

It is with joy and thanksgiving that we announce a generous financial gift to Holy Spirit Lutheran Church by an anonymous church member. The gift of nearly $600,000 has been designated to pay off the current mortgage which will free up around $6,500 a month for ministry investment. What a blessing!

This gift and the congregation’s continued financial giving will allow HSLC to confidently sustain our current ministries. And we can plan to do even more for members and our community. Having generous and forward-looking members is every congregation’s dream. With every gift, we can do more of God’s work. This gift isn’t just a one-time moment; it invites us to live boldly, and to envision new ways that we can continue to proclaim and embody the compassionate, challenging, inclusive love of God in the world. The end of a mortgage payment is really a beginning of many new possibilities.

This past spring, our stewardship invitation called us to, “embrace the path forward.” As we continue along that way we are thrilled to know we have a vibrant and generous congregation who share the work of our mission together. All are encouraged to continue giving at the levels they are able to grow our ministries. Specific ideas for ministry investments will be continued to be considered through our normal decision channels which include our church council, staff, and committees. Thank you to all who graciously support HSLC!
Music Notes

Slowly but surely, Holy Spirit music activities are returning this fall!

Following approval from the congregation's Reopening Committee, HSLC's handbell choir programs will resume in October:

**Spirit Ringers**, a choir for adults, meets Thursdays at 6:30pm. Several ringers needed; some music reading knowledge is very helpful.

**Joyful Ringers**, an introductory choir for kids grades 2 to 5, meets Wednesdays 5:30-6:15pm. All beginning ringers very welcome!

**Rejoicing Ringers**, a choir for youth in grades 6 and up, meets Wednesdays 6:15-7:00pm. All youth ringers very welcome!

In addition to the return of handbell choirs in October, vocal and instrumental soloists and small ensembles are being arranged to offer music in worship, as we eagerly look forward to the time when the community can safely join together to sing together as a congregation in worship. At that time, we'll also consider beginning weekly Chancel Choir and larger instrumental groups, always bearing everyone's safety in mind.

Please contact John Sparkman at music@hslickkirkland.org with questions or to express your interest in music making at Holy Spirit.

Caring Connections

We are pleased to announce that the phone calling our former part-time pastors participated in during the shut down will be continued by a team of church members called the “Caring Connections” ministry team.

The mission of this team of caring and compassionate members is…”To connect with congregational members, in coordination with the pastors, creating supportive companionship through phone calls and visits as we walk alongside one another in community.”

Each caller will have assigned members to connect with on a monthly basis for the purpose of checking in regarding their well-being and providing them with church updates. If you are interested in receiving calls, please contact Pastor Katy through the church office.

Plaster House Fundraiser

Plaster House provides "High Love, Low Cost" surgical rehabilitation for 1000 children with disabilities in Tanzania. St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church in Bellevue will be hosting a fundraiser with their founder, Sarah Rejman, on Sunday, October 10th. In partnership with Cross of Christ Lutheran, a lunch will be provided at 12:30 p.m. in the St. Andrew’s parking lot, followed by a 1:00 pm presentation by Sarah inside their building, fully masked with contract tracing protocols. To order a box lunch, please RSVP with Jean Wahlstrom at marvinnjean@gmail.com or 206–225–5475. No reservation is needed for the presentation at 1:00 pm inside the building. If you're interested and have further questions, contact Karen Nelson at klnelson@wwdb.org.
Interested in Becoming a Member?

We love to welcome new members into the life of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church! We are offering the following opportunity this fall:

**New Member Class (part 1)—October 9; 9:00 am-10:30 am**
Pastor Katy leads a study of the values, theology, and mission of HSLC.

**New Member Class (part 2)—October 23; 10:00 am-11:00 am**
We match new members with sponsors from the congregation and share some of the ways to get involved at HSLC.

**New Members Received—October 24**
All new members are welcomed into the life of this community during each of the worship services.

If you have questions, speak with Pastor Katy or email the church office at office@hslckirkland.org.

---

**Wednesday "Fix-It Folks"**

With the return of increased building usage, the “Fix-It Folks” Wednesday morning group have begun to meet again. This group, also known as the “Knitters”, meets for conversation at 9:30am every Wednesday morning followed by the completion of jobs such as minor building repairs, replacing the cards in the Sanctuary, emptying trash and recycle, weekly vehicle checks, and setting tables for upcoming activities. Typically, they are done by 11:00 and many of the attendees relocate to a local restaurant for lunch. Even if you have never attended a gathering in the past you are invited to join in and help keep the building functioning or just join in for conversation & fellowship. Questions? Contact Doug Jacobson at DougDanaKirkland@hotmail.com.

---

**Quilters to Regather**

You are invited to join our quilting groups as they begin to regather on Thursdays at 2:00pm in the Lower Fellowship Hall (the Preschool area). In this early stage of reopening, this afternoon time combines the times of the previous morning and evening quilting groups.

Bring your mask, a story or two, and share in creating quilts for Lutheran World Relief, other charities, or even your own handwork. Please reach out to Kathy Doran via the church office with questions.

---

**Sign up for Flowers!**

The 2021 Flower Signup Chart is now available on the kiosk 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.

---

**Blessing of the Animals**

Sunday, October 10th at noon
on the front steps
Holy Spirit Lutheran Preschool Classes Resume!

Beginning September 2nd, our preschool opened the doors and welcomed children back into the classroom. We have two classes, a 3+ class and a PreK class, full of mask-wearing children who are eager to learn and love being outside for class and lunch every day. The students are learning to make wave bubbles (since it's hard to blow with a mask on), painting (the easel is a favorite in both classes), stump climbing and jumping, sharing, recognizing their name, patiently waiting their turn, mud kitchen recipes, and so much more!

We spend a significant amount of each day outdoors and are excited for the rain to return so the students can see more insects living under those stumps! They loved finding a slug inside the caterpillar on the hill the second week of class! The students are always eager to come to class and are doing a great job of learning what it means to be part of our school community! We are so proud of the students and their families as they adapt to our ever changing world – we couldn't have preschool without them. If you have questions about HSLP, you can contact Becky at children@hslckirkland.org.

Refugee Starter Kits Drive - a Huge Success!

Thank you to all those who donated household items to be distributed to newly arrived refugees and immigrants through Lutheran Community Services Northwest. The Refugee Resettlement Committee has been overwhelmed with the generosity of the congregation! We have assembled over 40 starter kits for Afghan families who are expected to arrive soon. Their needs will be great upon arrival, and providing these starter kits is a way for us to send messages of support and welcome. We appreciate all your donations and willingness to help. Thank you so much!

HSLC Nursery is Hiring......

Do you love working with children? Do you want to nurture and spend time with our littlest church members? Our nursery staff is looking for a few additional team members. We specifically need 1-2 adults to work Thursday mornings during the school year from 9:30am – 12:00pm. We also need 1-2 teens or adults to work Sunday morning, weeknight, and weekend shifts. Weeknight and weekend hours and shifts vary and are scheduled monthly based on the church calendar. Please contact Becky Cole (children@hslckirkland.org) if you are interested.

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.
The Library Is Open!

Now that we are meeting in the church building again, you may want to re-visit the library. Although seating is still not available, you are welcome to browse the library before or after services on Sunday. We have a wide variety of books to check out, including many children’s books.

During the closure we were still able to acquire many new books. These will be featured in the display in the narthex during the month of October. More new books will be held on the counter in the library before being added to the regular shelves.

Due to COVID restrictions we won’t be having the annual library fair this fall, but look forward in hope to next year. Thank you to all who have continued to support this ministry.

Crossways with Pastor Mike

Pastor Mike Anderson is very excited to share with you an invitation to join “Crossways”, the two-year Bible study course he has been teaching at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church for the past 36 years! (Due to the correction of a misunderstanding with copyright permissions, we are actually allowed to call our bible study "Crossways" and not "BibleLens"). 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 their 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 "Crossways" 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.hslickirkland.org/crossways. You are welcome to join in at anytime throughout the year, even when classes have already started. 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!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Status as of: 8/31/21</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Giving to Support Budget</td>
<td>$25,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Giving Year-to-Date</td>
<td>$21,881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year-to-Date Spending</td>
<td>$176,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year-to-Date Income</td>
<td>$196,928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Operating Income (Deficit)</td>
<td>$20,597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Fund Balance as of 8/31/21</td>
<td>$312,115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that the fiscal year is 7/1/21-6/30/22.
Worship on Sundays - 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 AM

Masks required for all over 2 years of age
Online Worship continues

Worship Leaders Needed!

HSLC really needs your help to lead and create the community’s vibrant, participatory worship. If you are interested in helping to lead worship, please contact John Sparkman at music@hslckirkland.org or complete a Worship Availability form on Sunday and place it in the offering plate when you come forward for Communion (or give it directly to a member of the church staff). The forms are skinny and green—easy to spot! Please consider if you might be called to help lead, and contact John at music@hslckirkland.org with questions.

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@hslckirkland.org to update your communication preferences. Thank you!