Who Am I?

Did you ever play the “Who Am I?” game when you were a kid? Or maybe you played it with your kids?

It’s the game where you describe something using clues to see if anyone else in the room or car can guess it.

For instance, “I’m big and grey, I have a trunk and big ears, and my home is in Africa. Who am I?” And the answer would be an African Elephant!

As I was playing this game in the car the other day with my kids, I was wondering what clues I would give about myself to help people figure out who I was. Here’s what I came up with…

I am the mother of two awesome kids (Micah who is 8 and Naomi who is 5), two dogs, (Peanut and Butterscotch), and a cat (Marvin).

I love to cook, bake, sing, and dance. In fact, I often sing and dance while cooking and baking!

I am a true extrovert who gets energy by being around other people.

I am passionate about faith, kids, and social justice and love having conversations with people around these topics.

My favorite movie is Ever After (followed by all of the Harry Potter movies!)


I love ALL music! My favorite classic hymn is Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing. My favorite secular song right now is Bang by AJR.

My favorite season of the year is Fall.

My favorite flower is the Stargazer Lily.

Installation Service for Pastor Gina Herman

Sunday, November 7th at 11am

Pastor Gina will be officially installed as our Associate Pastor on November 7, All Saints Sunday, during the 11 am service. Pastor Andy Yee, Assistant to the Bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod, will be here to preside at the installation. We will also celebrate her arrival at the 8 am and 9:30 am services.
Who Am I? (continued)

In my spare time, I love hanging out with my family, swimming, biking, catching a Mariners' game, playing softball with Jeremy, or just walking around a busy city street or park and people watching.

And my favorite thing about being an ELCA Lutheran is that we believe that all people are cherished and deeply loved children of God, and so we strive to work towards equality for all out of our theology of grace and love given to us by our loving redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Who am I? I’m your new associate pastor, Pastor Gina Herman! Looking forward to meeting you all in person very soon and learning your “Who am I” clues!

Blessings,
Pastor Gina

Music Notes

HSLC’s handbell choir programs have resumed:

**Spirit Ringers**, a choir for adults, meets Thursdays at 6:30pm. Substitute ringers are 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, 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@hslckirkland.org with questions or to express your interest in music making at Holy Spirit.

Reconciling Faith and Gender Identity: Perspectives from a Transgender Woman

As part of Transgender Awareness Month, Holy Spirit member Stephanie Dykes will share her story about how she came to reconcile her identity as a transgender woman with her faith as a Lutheran. Her presentation will focus on:

- Key points in her journey of self – acceptance as a transgender woman
- What life is like for transgender and gender – diverse persons
- How she came to reconcile her faith as a Lutheran with her gender identity

You are invited to attend this presentation on November 13, 2021, at 10 am in the HSLC sanctuary. There will be opportunities for Q&A during and following the presentation. Attendees are reminded to bring masks.

Time Change on November 7th!

Remember to “Fall Back!” We return to Standard Time on Sunday, November 7. Set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on November 6.
Holy Spirit Joins Common Hope Faith Community Partner Program

In February 2020, a team of individuals from Holy Spirit Lutheran Church visited Guatemala to work with Common Hope. This organization has promoted hope and opportunity in Guatemala for more than 30 years. It partners with children, families, and communities who want to participate in a process of development through programs in education, health care, and housing. Common Hope has seen tangible outcomes resulting from their programs. Students whose families are affiliated with Common Hope graduate high school at a rate 4 times the national rate. This is important because high school graduates in Guatemala get better jobs, enjoy a higher standard of living, are in better health, and are more optimistic about the future. Planning had begun for a Vision Team from Holy Spirit to go to Guatemala in February 2022, but unfortunately COVID concerns in Guatemala have postponed this trip until February 2023.

Common Hope has a Faith Community Partner program to strengthen their relationship with churches that wish to support their program in Guatemala. The members of the Vision Team requested that Holy Spirit join this program. Earlier this year that request was approved by the church council. This partnership does not require a financial commitment from Holy Spirit. As a Faith Community Partner, we are asked to undertake partnership activities each year, that may include:

- Encouraging individuals to sponsor a student
- Host a Cultural Learning Activity
- Have a group visit Guatemala
- Promote awareness about Guatemala and Common Hope's work

The active group of individuals supporting Common Hope now is undertaking the following:

- Ten families are currently sponsoring 12 students.
- We hope to have a team of 10-15 individuals visit Guatemala every February starting again in 2023.
- In January, sponsoring an education program about conditions in Central America and promoting support for Common Hope.

If you would like to find out more about Common Hope and their programs, please visit https://www.commonhope.org/about. For information about sponsoring a student, please visit https://www.commonhope.org/sponsorship.

---

**Financial Status as of: 9/30/21**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Giving to Support</td>
<td>$25,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Giving Year-to-Date</td>
<td>$20,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-17% diff. to budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year-to-Date Spending</td>
<td>$260,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year-to-Date Income</td>
<td>$271,489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Operating Income (Deficit)</td>
<td>$10,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Fund Balance as of 9/30/21</td>
<td>$302,447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.78 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note that the fiscal year is 7/1/21-6/30/22.*
Reduce Vehicle Idling to Improve Your Health and Your Vehicle’s Fuel Economy

Idling your vehicle—running your engine when you’re not driving—truly gets you nowhere. Idling reduces your vehicle’s fuel economy, costs you money, and creates pollution. Idling for more than 10 seconds, uses more fuel and produces more emissions that contribute to smog and climate change than stopping and restarting your engine does. Many newer cars stop and restart automatically.

Because of the health and community benefits, HSLC is encouraging our members to join the City of Kirkland and stop idling our vehicles. Pledge to make a difference now at ITURNITOFF.COM.

The US Department of Energy estimates that the idling of personal vehicles generates about 30 million tons of CO2 each year, a significant contributor to climate change. Eliminating emissions by reducing idling would be like removing 6 million cars from the roads.

Warming up your car on a cold morning by idling the engine can contaminate the cabin air with pollutants. Moreover, vehicles will reach ideal operating temperatures more quickly while driving versus idling. Ford Motor Company says in one of its manuals, “Idling in cold weather does not heat the engine to its normal operating temperature. Long periods of idling, especially in cold weather, can cause a buildup of deposits which can cause engine damage.”

Idling can damage engine components. A vehicle's fuel is only partially combusted because the engine isn’t at peak temperature. This causes fuel residue to build up on cylinder walls, which can damage engine components and increase fuel consumption. Contrary to popular opinion, restarting instead of idling will not excessively wear out your starter.

Don’t put it off. Pledge now to make a difference by reducing idling. A great place to start is with your own network of friends, family, and community members. By setting an example and educating them about the issue, you will certainly impact those around you. Visit ITURNITOFF.COM to pledge to make a difference.

- information provided by the Social Justice Committee, Education & Advocacy Team

Sign up for Flowers!

The 2021 Flower Signup Chart is available on the kiosk in the narthex. You are invited to sign up (in person or by calling the church office) to provide flowers for 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.

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.
From the Library - Religions Beyond Our Own

There are many good reasons to read about religion beyond Christianity, both religion in general and other world religions. One is just curiosity and the desire to know more about the world. Another is to better understand the role of religion in current events. Still another is to learn more about one's one faith by comparing and contrasting with the faith of others. For the month of November, the HSLC library is featuring books to explore these questions. Following are some teasers to get you started with one of our library books.

Religion in general in today's world:

- *The Case for God* by Karen Armstrong – Armstrong's books are not an easy read, but very thought-provoking and full of historical examples. If you like to read history, this may be the one for you.
- *Speaking of Faith* by Krista Tippett – This is a less heavy read than the first two books, but still thought-provoking. Tippett is a familiar NPR journalist.

Interfaith dialogue:

- *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor – This was a popular book recently for Holy Spirit’s Lenten study groups. If you didn’t read it then, the library has 2 or 3 copies available.
- *Living Buddha, Living Christ* by Thich Nhat Hanh – The author is a Buddhist monk from Vietnam who has been a very popular author for years. A chance to see Jesus from the (positive) point of view of someone belonging to a different faith.

Some world religions:

- *The First Muslim: The Story of Muhammad* by Lesley Hazleton – “Richly detailed and beautifully written...a truly amazing tale.” - The Seattle Times
- *World Religions* by John Bowker – This is a small encyclopedia, not a book to read cover-to-cover. Lots of interesting facts and beautiful pictures.

Find these books on the library display shelves in the narthex/lobby. If the one you want has been checked out, head downstairs and check out the other offerings in sections Dewey Decimal 200-215 and 291-299.

Happy reading!

- Ruth Munger, HSLC Librarian
  ruthmunger@comcast.net

7th and 8th grade Fall Relationships Retreat
Saturday, November 20, 8:30 am – 9:30 pm; Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Renton

Open to all in grades 7 and 8! This has been the most popular retreat in the past. We will spend the day focusing on relationships and dating. Cost of the retreat is $75 and includes lunch, dinner and activities. Sign up online at https://www.hslckirkland.org/retreat-registration and place a check made out to HSLC in registration slot under the bulletin board in the church entry. Registration deadline is Wednesday, November 10.
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 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!