We Are Called
by Pastor Katy

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

That mission statement has been a guiding light for the community of Holy Spirit Lutheran since 1997. It’s pushed us to think about what it means to proclaim God’s love outside our walls, and to embody that love among one another. It’s pulled at us as we realize that being inclusive is never-ending work, and living as compassionate people means we must listen to the needs of our neighbors and our own hearts. It’s connected us to other congregations and religions because God’s love cannot be limited by our human traditions.

And it starts with three small but crucial words: we are called.

In May, we always take time to explore our call to stewardship: the care and generosity with which God invites us to live in the world. We ask ourselves how we can share what we have received: how we can live generously with our money, our time, our abilities, our gifts, and our love.

That generosity begins with we. God calls us to live as community together: making room for each other, listening to each other, supporting one another. When you give to Holy Spirit, you support ministries in the building and over $100,000 given away in partnerships with local and national organizations and global ministries. We can be part of providing food for families fleeing Ukraine; and homes for Afghan refugees arriving in Seattle; and kids going to Lutheran camps for the summer; and new churches starting all over the country. None of us could do that alone. It takes a we.

We are. We’ve been through a lot in these past years! Our congregation has changed, grown, and evolved. We are in-person and online; we are long-time members and brand-new to the community. Even those of us who have been part of HSLC for years have grown and changed as a result of the pandemic. And yet, we are here. Right now. This is our opportunity to proclaim and embody the radically life-giving love of God. We are ready.

Join us for PRIDE this year!

The Seattle PRIDE Parade is back in person this year and will take place on Sunday, June 26th. We’re gathering a group of Holy Spirit folks to join other ELCA Lutherans in the parade to show our pride and support for the LGBTQIA community. The parade is not just for adults, but for children and youth as well! Due to COVID, all those who wish to participate must be vaccinated and registered with their point person by May 25th. Pastor Gina is the point person for Holy Spirit this year. Contact her via e-mail at pastorgina@hslckirkland.org with questions or to sign-up.
Pastor's Letter (continued)

And we are called. We are a congregation not for our own sake, but for the sake of the world. The world is hurting and we have good news to share. We are called to show up for each other, to speak up for justice, to dream new ways of being church, to take risks, and to be as faithful as we can. We are called to lives of stewardship not just to support the church budget (which is important!) but to live boldly in the world.

Watch for the stewardship invitation coming your way this May. Prayerfully consider your support of Holy Spirit’s mission and ministries. Share your time, your resources, your abilities, and your hopes as we are called with good courage into the world God loves.

Pastor Katy

Stewardship Event – Spring 2022 - We Are Called

This spring, all members, friends, and community members are called to embrace the love of God through connections and personal giving. Our desire is to strengthen our relationships and grow our financial foundation so we can do more as a congregation in the upcoming year.

Through our annual Stewardship Invitation, we ask that you connect with other members, consider ways to be more involved in the church family, and increase your financial giving as you are able. Let’s see if the following will give you some ideas on how to do this!

- Join us for the Gratitude Gathering for recent retirees from 1 - 4 pm on Sat., May 14th.

- Looking for some summer fun? Perhaps you’d love to find a way to be more involved in our church community? The stewardship team is hosting a ministry fair between services on May 15th and 22nd. This event will connect activity leaders with people looking for ways to engage. We plan to have activity sign-ups for an outdoor movie night, 55&Alive, anti-racism, meal serving, worship assistants, golfing, hike, running, supper club, book club, VBS, and much more. If you are a church activity or committee leader and wish to host a table, please contact Janet Jones for more information (janet.fontmedia@gmail.com).

- Engage in the phone call challenge! Wouldn’t it be fun to connect with a church member you haven’t talked to in a while? We are asking that you reach out to three church members or friends by phone and say hi. The church directory can be found at hslckirkland.org/online-directory. For password information, contact the office at office@hslckirkland.org.

- Respond to the stewardship invitation by either returning the invitation form to the church or make one-time or ongoing donations at https://www.hslckirkland.org/giving.

We are called to be together in community, to be listening for God’s voice, and to live out life as God intends. Our congregation continues to grow and expand as each of us engage with our time and gifts. We look forward to seeing and hearing from everyone this spring!

### Financial Status as of: 3/31/22

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Note that the fiscal year is 7/1/21-6/30/22.
May Events at HSLC!

Confirmation Sunday - Sunday, May 1st at 11 am

Congratulations to these youth who are affirming their faith:

- Branson Capps
- Garrett Ensing
- Anaiah Galen
- Grace Hanson
- Maya Held
- Hannah Henrikson
- Julia Larsen
- Victoria Martinka
- Olivia Meverden
- Katie Ng
- Arabella Rohr
- Brooks Sammarco
- Katie Shore
- Addie Thompson
- Benny Williams

New Member Class
Saturday, May 7th and Saturday, May 21st from 9 am to 11 am

If you are interested in becoming a member of HSLC, contact the church office at office@hslckirkland.org to sign up for these two sessions. New members will be received during worship on Sunday, May 22nd. Childcare is available.

Gratitude Gathering - Saturday, May 14th from 1 - 4 pm

We will offer our thanks and gratitude for recent retirees and their lives of service at HSLC - Pastor Mike Anderson, Pastor Mary-Alyce Burleigh, Pastor Rita Anderson, Pastor Phil Strain, Pastor Larry Morris, and Patti Peterson. The celebration will include casual background piano and instrumental music from the HSLC community. If you’re interested in contributing, email John Sparkman at music@hslckirkland.org for details.

Music Sunday - Sunday, May 22nd
at all three services, with choirs and other ensembles
at 9:30 am and 11 am

This beloved musical tradition is back! We look forward praising and thanking God in song and music for the simple - but perhaps now more fully appreciated - gift of just being together. Come sing, play, and worship as we seek to newly live into Christ’s call to foster beloved community with one another. Interested in participating? Contact John Sparkman at music@hslckirkland.org.

Living Like Jesus
Vacation Bible School and Day Camp - July 11-15
Registration is open, and we need volunteers!

Each summer, children ages 4 through those entering 6th grade in the fall join us for an adventure where kids explore the Bible in a variety of ways - through song, story, arts & crafts, games, science, and snacks. This week is fun and has something for everyone! It’s a week you don’t want to miss! Everyone discovers something more about loving each other, building a community, and discovering God’s never ending love. We are so excited to have your child join us for an amazing week at Living Like Jesus.

Based on current COVID-19 guidelines and vaccination information, we are planning to host Vacation Bible School and Day Camp in person. We continue to monitor King County and CDC guidelines.

Register or sign up to be a volunteer on our website: www.holyspiritvbs.org. Share the information with your neighbors and friends. If you have questions, please contact Becky at children@hslckirkland.org.
Check Out the New Wall Art

If you take the steps from the Narthex downstairs towards the library, you’ll see a new addition on the wall. It is the words of our mission statement! A huge thanks to Holy Spirit member Jody Potthoff who took on the work and the creativity (as well as the bravery!) to put our mission statement up on the wall. It reminds us that we are called by the Holy Spirit to proclaim and embody the compassionate, challenging, and inclusive love of God revealed in Jesus Christ. That's the mission that drives all of us, that connects us together. The resurrection of Jesus doesn't just belong here in the church building, it is good news for the whole world. Our mission as a congregation isn't just for us - we are called to help bring about God's kingdom in every way that we possible can in the world. That is the good news and the joy and the challenge of the Easter season.

So if you see Jody, be sure and tell her "thank you" for sharing her artistic talent with the church.

Helping Ukrainian Refugees Through Lutheran Community Services Northwest

Answering God’s Call to Serve Refugees

From Jewish Law to Christian Gospel, the call of God is unmistakable. The Church and its people must care for the foreigner and stranger, the oppressed and dispossessed – in a word, the refugee. And when we answer that call, blessings return to us tenfold. Foreigners become friends. Strangers become neighbors. Refugees contribute to our broader economy, culture and community.

At Lutheran Community Services Northwest, we are grateful for Church partners who support this work with hands, hearts and prayers. With your help we have resettled more than 700 Afghans since August. But the work is far from done. Today we stand at an Easter season crossroads, preparing for a wave of Ukrainian evacuees, plus more Afghans. The pace is also quickening for refugees arriving from other continents.

Answering the call is no less urgent than it was nine months ago. We need your help. Please consider making a contribution today via the LCSNW website (https://lcsnw.org/refugee-response/).

Eastside Climate Action Challenge

Please consider helping our congregation and community become more resilient, sustainable, healthy, and prepared: Did you know that 40% of U.S. climate emissions come from basic household activities? The great news is that now more than ever, there are simple ways to take action, save money, protect Creation, advocate for social justice, and make a real difference. Learn more and join the Eastside Climate Action Challenge today with our HSLC Team, City of Kirkland, and other Eastside Cities! For more information, visit https://www.redmond.gov/1724/Climate-Action-Challenge.

Walking Group—9:00 am on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

Do you want to go for a walk but not alone? Join our walking group! We meet in the church parking lot at 9:00 am on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings. We walk around the neighborhood and are usually back within an hour. We would love to have you join us. If you have any questions, contact Donna Morris at 425-985-2552.
Try Something New in Bible Reading for May!

As many of us learned in the Crossways class, there is a basic distinction between devotional reading of the Bible and scholarly reading. Ideally, a person would do some of both, and let each type of reading inform the other. The Holy Spirit library has aids for both approaches.

On the scholarly side, Pastor Katy has recently recommended some great new commentaries. These are not books you would try to read cover to cover, but rather look through them and find a section or two that interests you. There are also popular books by authors such as Marcus Borg and Harvey Cox, discussing how to solve some of the problems involved in understanding the Bible.

On the devotional side, we have many books focusing on a particular topic or book of the Bible. For example, recently we added some new books to guide you through a reading of the gospel of Luke. The Psalms would also be a choice with several options in our collection.

If browsing doesn't help you to figure out what you want, please feel free to ask one of the pastors or the church librarian, and they will do their best to help.

Happy reading!

- Ruth Munger, HSLC Librarian

7th and 8th Grade Summer Mission Trip
August 1-5 (with an overnight at the church on Sunday, July 31 at 6 pm to kick it off) — 9 am - 3 pm daily

We will meet at the church and take the church van or carpool to our work site for the day.

Service projects include:
  • working with those experiencing homelessness
  • beach clean-up to save the animals
  • and lots more!

We are also planning a fun day on Friday!

Cost: $150 for the week. Scholarships are available if needed! Friends are welcome! This is open to all current 7th and 8th graders.

Sign up today! Deadline to register is Wednesday, June 29. To register, visit the 7th and 8th grade page of the church website (hslckirkland.org/junior-high). Scroll down to the Mission Trip information and fill out the online form.

We need adult helpers, so if anyone is interested or has any other questions, contact Tammie at confirmation@hslckirkland.org.

Invitation to Jared Boreson Memorial

Jared Christian Boreson, 31, died March 5, 2022 in Kirkland, Washington.

His memorial service will be held on Sunday, May 1st, at 4 pm at HSLC, with a reception to follow. The congregation is invited to attend.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Jared’s memory may be made to Immanuel Community Services, Recovery Shelter or PAWS.
May 2022 HSLC Newsletter

Childcare available at 9:30 am and 11:00 am
Livestreaming at 9:30 am and 11:00 am
Worship on Sundays - 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 AM

Communication preferences? Thank you!
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!

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