



Compassionate. Challenging. Inclusive.

Monthly Newsletter

Paradoxes and Pilgrimages by Pastor Katy

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A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none.
 A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.
 - from *On the Freedom of a Christian* (1520)
 Martin Luther

If you read those two statements above and noticed a clear contradiction between them, congratulations: you read correctly. Under accusation of heresy and threat of excommunication, Martin Luther wrote a short essay, 'On the Freedom of a Christian,' in 1520, and wrote these two sentences which do sound impossible to reconcile. How can someone be free, and yet a servant? How can one be subject to all, and subject to none? How confusing can you get, Martin?

This wasn't the only place in his writings where Luther unabashedly embraced a paradox – holding as true two seemingly contradictory things. Rather than treat paradoxes as a problem to be fixed, or an equation to be solved, Luther simply named both things as true. So yes, as Christians we do not need to be obedient to tyrants, for

example, because we know that God is our source of authority. And yes, as Christians we are servants to our neighbors, because Christ calls us to do just that. Two different things can be true at the same time.

Embracing paradox may be the most important theological gift that the Lutheran tradition can offer to the 21st century. Life is complicated, and a great many theologies treat those complications as problems to be solved. But often, it can be more helpful – and more honest – to live with the paradoxes. Good people can do deeply unjust things. The world is both beautiful and broken. The future is full of reasons to hope and reasons to worry. All of those things are simply true, all at the same time.

I have been particularly grateful for the Lutheran approach to paradox as I watch and worry and pray about events unfolding in Israel and Gaza since last October. So many conflicting perspectives, reports, approaches and understandings can make it difficult to know what to do, how to help, or how we might unintentionally create more harm.

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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.

Lenten Wednesday Meals and Worship through Wednesday, March 20th

On Wednesdays during Lent, a simple soup supper will be served at 6:00 pm, followed by Lenten Evening Worship at 7:00 pm. Each family is asked to provide a salad to share. HSLC provides bread and soup. Even though each household provides a salad only once during Lent, you are invited and encouraged to come to dinner and worship every week.

Please bring salad on the week designated by the first letter of your last name. Thank you!

I-M: March 6 N-R: March 13 S-Z: March 20

Pastor's Letter (continued)

Try as we might, simplifying the situation isn't possible. And when we try, we usually end up ignoring someone's experience, suffering, and struggle. Though some of these numbers will have changed by the time you read this article, as of mid-February:

- Over 1200 Israelis were killed by Hamas and other groups on October 7, 2023. 685 were civilians.
- An average of 23,000 in Gaza have been killed since war began, and 58,000 injured. 70% of those killed and injured are women and children.
- Of the 240 hostages taken on October 7, 130 are still missing.
- Approximately 85% of the population of Gaza has been displaced by violence.
- In 2023 the Anti-Defamation League recorded the highest number of antisemitic incidents on record in Washington State.
- Multiple incidents of violence against Jews and Muslims in the United States have been reported across the country, including several deaths.

Antisemitism has markedly increased in our own neighborhoods, in our own city. Families with loved ones in Gaza live in those same neighborhoods, in that same city. Real suffering, pain, and hurt is rising across the globe as violence continues in Gaza and Israel. Making any of this simple, simply isn't possible. As Luther himself often asked, "what does this mean?"

On March 9th, we are invited to join with other Kirkland congregations and interfaith partners to walk a Pilgrimage for Ceasefire in Gaza. Beginning at Heritage Park at 6am, the whole walk will encompass a 25-mile route, echoing the 25-mile length of the Gaza strip. This same pilgrimage will be held in 85 cities across the globe, led by Palestinian Christians during the season of Lent. (Please note that no traffic disruptions will be included in this walk.) This walk is a public witness for an enduring and sustained ceasefire that will allow immediate access to life-saving water, fuel, and humanitarian aid, as well as a call for the release of all hostages.

On May 11th, we are co-sponsoring with our siblings at Congregation Kol Ami in Kirkland, their second annual Kirkland Together Against Antisemitism event. From 3-6pm, we will gather with folks from all over Kirkland, both adults and kids, to learn about recognizing and standing against antisemitism. Pastor Terry Kylo, an ELCA pastor who has preached and taught at HSLC, will be featured along with several other speakers.

I hope you will join in both of these opportunities to speak out and walk in the steps of justice and a sustained peace. Our neighbors, friends, and families across the globe who are Jewish deserve our love, care, support, and advocacy. Our neighbors, friends and families across the globe who are Palestinian deserve our love, care, support, and advocacy.

Both of those things are true. And they are not contradictory. They are a piece of what it looks like to walk in the paths of Jesus, remembering the words of the prophet Micah: "for what does the Lord require of you, O mortal, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

Pastor Katy



Souper Sundays Recap

Thank you for your generosity! We collected nearly 1,200 cans of soup the first 11 days of February! It was so great to see all the kids and adults carrying cans of soup into church on Wednesdays, Sundays, and more! The piles of soup cans are feeding many hungry families in our community and we are so grateful for your generosity. We are keeping the pantry stocked with soup (up to 60 cans a day) and shared the abundance of soup with Juanita Elementary and Helen Keller Elementary. Thank you to all who helped distribute the soup to feed the people in our community.

Holy Spirit Lutheran Preschool: Accepting Applications for 2024-2025

Our preschool has classes for children who are 2 ½, 3, 4, and 5 (not yet entering kindergarten). We would love to have your child explore their natural curiosity and develop their love of learning at HSLC’s play-based preschool, which focuses on STEM, pre-literacy, outdoor play, and socio-emotional development. We welcome children from many different cultural, economic, and faith backgrounds to learn through play, art, and nature. We are fortunate to share HSLC’s mission of inclusive faith formation and help children learn more about the world around them. Our current offerings for the fall are:

- Twinkles Class (age 2 by 3/1/24) – Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30 am - noon
- Stars Class (age 3 by 6/1/24) – Monday - Thursday 9:30 am - 1:00 pm (limited availability)

To learn more about our preschool or to schedule a tour, visit holyspiritpreschool.org. If you have specific questions, please email Kelly at preschool@hslckirkland.org.



Congratulations, Confirmation Class of 2024!

On Sunday, February 4th during the 11:00 am service, 9 of our 9th graders said ‘Yes’ to affirming their baptisms in a special service, which they each took part in. They read aloud the readings and prayers, served communion, and served as acolytes. The Confirmation students decorated their own stoles, which the Confirmation group leaders placed around their necks, and then their families were invited to come forward to lay hands on each of the 9th graders as the pastors blessed them. It was a beautiful service, and we are proud to welcome these Confirmation students into full membership of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church.



Tony Canizales	Natalie Capps	Morgan Castle
Ben Hail	Tyler Hail	Ray Hodgson
Colin Johnson	Jackson Montemayor	Lucy Wulfestieg

Special thanks to the group leaders who have led this group of 9th graders through the 2.5 years of Confirmation classes and service projects. You are very much appreciated!!

Emilie Castle	Lisa Hodgson	Greg Johnson
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Communion Connections Class Sunday, March 24 | 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm

We will be offering our annual Communion Connections Class on Sunday, March 24th (Palm Sunday!) from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm. This class is a fun and interactive class designed for 3rd graders and their parents/guardians. Children in 4th-6th grade and their parents/guardians who have not attended in the past or would like a refresher are also welcome to attend. For more information and/or to sign-up, visit hslckirkland.org/communion-class.



Baptism Class Saturday, April 20th | 10:00 am - 11:30am

If you’ve been thinking about baptism for yourself or your child, or simply want to know more about what we believe about baptism, here’s a great opportunity for you! Kids and adults are invited to join us on Saturday, April 20th from 10:00 am - 11:30am for an educational and interactive class on baptism. Those who attend the class will have the opportunity to be baptized on Sunday, May 5th. For more information or to sign-up, contact Becky Cole at children@hslckirkland.org.

Morning Meditation

Saturday, March 2nd | 10:00 am

The members of the Contemplative Prayer group invite you to join them for Morning Meditation on Saturday, March 2nd at 10:00 am. The service includes prayer, simple music, 20 minutes of silent meditation, and encountering the Scripture through Lectio Divina. No previous experience is needed. All are welcome. If you plan to attend, please contact Christina at cebrug@gmail.com so we can set up enough chairs. We'll be meeting in the Library.



Climate Justice Adult Study

Monday nights | 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm via Zoom

Join us for this 6-week online discussion group on "Climate Justice - Following Jesus in a world of Climate Breakdown." We will be watching a video series created by an Episcopal priest in the UK, exploring how we as Christians can respond to climate change. The videos feature prayer, Bible study, scientific research, and political discussion. No prep required! Sign up at hslckirkland.org/climate-justice so you can receive the Zoom link. Contact Jeremy Herman at jeremyherman1@gmail.com with questions.

New Member Classes

Saturday, March 9th and 16th | 9:00 am – 11:00 am

The Spring 2024 New Member Classes will be held on consecutive Saturdays, March 9th and 16th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. New members will be received into the congregation on Sunday, March 17th. Childcare is available. Visit hslckirkland.org/new-member-class-registration to sign up. If you have questions, speak with Pastor Katy.



Landscaping and Spring Cleaning Work Parties

Saturday, March 16th, beginning at 8:30 am and Sunday, March 17th, beginning at noon

The Property Committee is hosting two work parties to get the church ready for Easter! On Saturday, March 16th, with the assistance of the Boy Scouts, we will be concentrating on the outside: spreading 25 cubic yards of mulch, trimming shrubbery, pressure washing, etc. On Sunday, March 17th, we'll concentrate on the inside: window washing, washing hard surfaces, kitchen cleaning, carpet cleaning, Sanctuary chair cleaning, Fellowship Hall table and chair cleaning, etc. We hope to see you at one or both parties! Questions? Contact Doug Jacobson at ddjacobson@frontier.com.

The Photo Albums from Beth Mickelson (Refugee Resettlement Committee)

What would you bring with you if you had to suddenly depart your home and all you've ever known? This is certainly something to think about. This is what I reflected upon when visiting one of our resettled Ukrainian families. Side by side, I sat with the wife as she handed me her family photo albums to share. It felt like such a privilege to be taking a look at their past life.

Most of the photos were of her four children, especially the celebrations of their birthdays through the years. I was taken aback by the amazingly decorated cakes she had made and designed for each child, the beauty of their home decor, the joy in their eyes, the togetherness - it spoke volumes.

Now they must celebrate here away from extended family. She made it known that she loves baking and creating. When asked if she would be making more cakes for her children, she shared that she had no baking pans. This we provided quickly so she could carry forth with her baking talent.

These photo albums are a true link to this family's past as they now start over. I am sure they will carry on with family traditions as best they can. They are indeed fortunate to have many more children's birthday celebrations ahead of them and, with this, more photos to add to their collection.

For more information on the work of the Refugee Resettlement Committee, visit our website at hslckirkland.org/rrc-main.

HSLC Library: Refugee Writers on Refugee Lives

Displaced people universally experience a common initial event, a crisis that threatens life and livelihood and leads to the decision to flee their home. After the initial crisis, their displaced stories quickly become unique and individual to the person.

In *The Displaced*, editor Viet Thanh Nguyen, a Vietnamese refugee himself, has gathered impactful stories from 19 award winning displaced writers, enabling them to share their own stories of their journeys from their homeland and their experiences in their new homes.

As a reader of these stories, you will be able to see the world through the eyes of people who have lost their homes, their culture, their language, and perhaps even loved ones in their struggle to find their next safe haven. If you seek to increase your understanding of the refugee experience, this book is highly recommended for you.

In *Strength in What Remains*, Pulitzer Prize winner Tracy Kidder offers an incredibly genuine and inspiring account of Deo, a refugee from Burundi throughout his American journey. Having survived a civil war and genocide, Deo's story is about what it means to be human, how to find hope, and how ordinary people can be heroes.

Other recommendations:

No Land to Light On - a story about a young Syrian immigrant couple

For younger readers:

I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition) by Patricia McCormick and Malala Yousafzai

Tani's New Home, A Refugee finds hope and Kindness in America by Tanitoluwa Adewumi

- from Cheryl MacGregor, Refugee Resettlement Committee



Mission:
To expand the intersection of intellect and spirituality while holding physical space in our busy world for prayer, introspection and study.



Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
10021 NE 124th Street
Kirkland, WA 98034

www.hslckirkland.org
425.823.2727
office@hslckirkland.org

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March 2024 HSLC Newsletter

Return Service Requested

Worship on Sundays - 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 am

Childcare available at 9:30 am and 11:00 am
Livestreaming at 9:30 am

Lenten Soup Suppers and Lenten Services on Wednesdays during Lent (except March 23rd)

Soup Supper at 6:00 pm, Lenten Worship from 7:00-7:30 pm
No Kidz Club or Way to Live, but childcare available during worship.

Holy Week

Follow the journey of Christ from Palm Sunday to the Cross.

Palm Sunday Worship—March 24th

Maundy Thursday Worship—March 28th at 7:00 pm

Good Friday—March 29th

Noon - GKEP service and walk starting at St. John's Episcopal, Kirkland
7:00 pm - Service at HSLC

Easter Worship—Sunday, March 31st

6:30 am - at O.O. Denny Park
8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 am - at HSLC