



Compassionate. Challenging. Inclusive.

Monthly Newsletter

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Exercising Your Generosity

by Pastor Katy

When Covid shut-downs began in earnest, in the spring of 2020, the gym I was going to was one of the first things to close. Like organizations everywhere, gyms began offering online classes and, once the weather improved, one of my favorite class leaders started an outside dance group on Saturday mornings. But still, the regular schedule I had carefully managed into my life disappeared.

Treadmill to the rescue! We had one, used most often (like many treadmills) for storing boxes on and carefully collecting dust. Suddenly, our insistence on hanging onto it seemed wise instead of foolish. I began to run several times a week, and at first, it was fun. Cold weather or getting up early to drive to the gym were no longer excuses. Who needs a gym? I can do this on my own!

Guess what my treadmill is back to doing these days? At last count, there were several boxes and a half-built Lego set on it. The novelty of at-home workouts simply wore off. The isolation of running all by myself lost its attraction. I made it about

18 months into the pandemic with regular treadmill use, but that feels far away these days.

Jesus once told a crowd gathered to hear him, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." I used to think this was simply a command to be generous with our resources of all kinds – our money, our time, our abilities, our skills – and that's true. But it's also, for lack of a better phrase, an exercise plan.

Jesus didn't say, "where your heart is, there your treasure will be also." In other words, he didn't say that our hearts simply are a certain way: that we are either generous or we're not. You're not born one way or the other, or doomed to be one way or the other.

Instead, Jesus tells us that generosity comes from practice. Every time we place our treasure somewhere, our heart learns to value that same thing. We become generous by... well, being generous! In the same way that we become runners by running, or walkers by walking, or tennis players by playing, or

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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.

SummerFest at Holy Spirit Sunday, June 4th

Looking to get connected with others around a variety of different interests, hobbies, or talents? Then you won't want to miss SummerFest at Holy Spirit on Sunday, June 4th hosted after all three services! At SummerFest, you will have the opportunity to connect with people around common interests such as golfing, hiking, playing board games, wine tasting, play dates, a Mariners game, etc. If you have a small group you'd like to start or try out over the summer, e-mail Pastor Gina at pastorgina@hslckirkland.org and we'll get you a spot at SummerFest.

Pastor's Letter (continued)

musicians by practicing, or – you get the idea. There are no “professionals” when it comes to generosity – only amateurs. And we become what we do.

In the month of May, we always take time to ask ourselves about stewardship: the care of all God has entrusted to us. Our money, yes. And our time. And our abilities, our bodies, our hearts, our minds. Each of us matter infinitely to God, and each of us matter to the life of our community at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church.

This May, I want to challenge you to join me in exercising your generosity. That might look like increasing your financial giving to Holy Spirit, or starting a regular giving practice, as we look toward new projects in the future: what if we could put solar panels on our roof? Or welcome additional refugee families? Or expand our music ministries? Or add small groups for caregivers?

It might look like volunteering your time to help in worship, or with one of our summer small groups (join us for SummerFest on June 4th and find out more!) or with VBS in July. It might mean calling a friend you haven't seen in awhile. It might involve setting aside a few moments in your day for prayer, or coming to walk the labyrinth at Holy Spirit once a week.

The best news is, every time we exercise our generosity, it shapes our hearts. Where we put our treasure, our heart follows. We do not have to be perfect; we're all learning, every day, what it means to be good stewards. And every bit of generosity matters. The church is a place we can practice that generosity; where we are encouraged by others, instead of trying to do it all on our own, so that we can take that generosity into every part of our lives.

As for me, I'm going to dust off my treadmill and add in some steps to my week, as a way of caring for the body God has given me. And as my heart beats faster, and becomes stronger, I'll be renewed to practice other forms of generosity with you, in the community life God calls us to. Happy exercising!

Pastor Katy



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

Summer Reading

Summer reading is just around the corner and the HSLC Library has some fabulous new picture books to enjoy with your family! Recent additions include children's picture books about social-emotional learning, mindfulness, our environment, and world religions.

A few of my favorites are:

- *Wherever You Are* by Glenys Nellist. In this charming picture book, children are encouraged to see God all around them in everyday life. No matter where you are, God is there.
- *Find Calm in Nature: A Guide for Mindful Kids* by Jennifer Grant. In this book, kids learn to have a growth mindset through exploring the natural world - dandelions, dogs and cats, lava, and more!
- *Lailah's Lunchbox: A Ramadan Story*. The author, Reem Faruqi, based this book on her own experiences as a young Muslim girl immigrating to the United States.
- *Sparrow's Prayer* by Roger Hutchison. In this beautifully illustrated book, Sparrow struggles with prayer, feeling upset and sad. Then each friend he meets shows him a different way to pray- through generosity, art, and movement.
- *Roaring Mad Riley: An Anger Management Story for Kids* by Allison Szczeninski. This book provides lessons in how to keep calm by deep breathing, counting to ten, shouting it out, and many more.

Come down to the library to check out these fantastic books this summer!

Happy Reading!

Suzanne Avery-Fiegenschuh

Holy Spirit Lutheran Preschool: Accepting Applications for 2023-2024

Our preschool has classes for children who are 2½, 3, 4, and 5 (not yet entering kindergarten). We would love to have your child's light shine 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 next fall are:

- 2 ½ years old: "Twinkles" class - Mondays/Wednesdays 9:30-1:00 - LIMITED SPOTS
- 3-4 year old: "Rockets" class – Tuesdays/Thursdays 9:30-1:00 - LIMITED SPOTS
- 4-5 year old: PreK "Explorers" class – Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays 9:30-1:00 - FULL

To learn more about our preschool, visit www.holyspiritpreschool.org. If you have specific questions, please email Dana at preschool@hslckirkland.org.



HSLP Teachers Wanted!

Have experience working in an early childhood education setting? Love putting your creative, compassionate, collaborative gifts to use? Holy Spirit Lutheran Preschool, a play-based, faith-filled early learning school, is in search of both a Preschool Teacher and a Lead Preschool Teacher for the upcoming school year. Positions begin August 2023.

Lead Preschool Teacher details: Wage scale: minimum wage to \$20.00/hour. Responsibilities include lesson planning, classroom management, leading a class through story, song, and play, and guiding children's social, emotional, and academic growth.

Preschool Teacher details: Wage scale: minimum wage to \$19.50/hour. Responsibilities include working with the lead teacher to meet the health, safety, and developmental needs of children in their care.

Both positions offer paid sick time and continuing education. Candidates will have proven early childhood development experience/skills, a desire to support children's social and academic readiness, and love working with children.

Please send resume and letter of interest to Becky Cole, HSLP Director, at children@hslckirkland.org or call 425 823-2727 x224.

Middle School Retreat

May 5th-6th at Trinity Lutheran Church on Whidbey Island

6th, 7th, and 8th graders will gather on beautiful Whidbey Island with other middle school students from our synod for a retreat related to STORY. Everyone has a story - what is your individual story and how does that connect us to each other? We will worship, play games, explore the beach, be creative, and grow in our faith. We'll leave the church at 5:15pm Friday night, May 5th (bring a sack lunch to eat on the way) and return by 7:30pm on Saturday, May 6th. Cost is \$40 and it covers the ferry rides, all meals and activities on Whidbey Island. Money should never be a reason to not participate - financial assistance is available. All conversations kept confidential – contact Becky. Register at <https://www.hslckirkland.org/middle-school-retreat>. Questions? Contact Becky.



Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2023!

On Sunday, April 30th at 11 am, this group of young people affirmed their faith and have become full members of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church. We are very blessed to have them with us as we continue our work together in ministry for the church and the world. A special thank you to the group leaders who have walked with these youth during this part of their lifelong faith journeys, each of them bringing their hearts for youth and an openness for learning from and with them.

Congratulations!

Blakeley Bourke	Ezekial Cole	Luke de la Port	Jonah Fatien
Thomas Higson	Shane Pruitt	Addy Pumper	Katherine Schaffer
Chloe Seidel	Molly Shackelford	Emmie Simek	Sommer Stewart
Alex Williams	Callie Wirkkala		

Thank you, Group Leaders: Emily Higson, Kaitlyn Ault, Jacquie Brissey, Tracy Stewart, Royal Hanson

Children, Youth, and Family Sunday Sunday, May 7th | 9:30 am

Join us to celebrate our children, youth, and family ministries. There'll be a "noisy offering" collection at the beginning of the service. We will honor all who have been involved in our children and youth programs this year. Our 4th, 5th, and 6th graders will help lead us through worship. Participation in our children and youth programs is very much appreciated!! Thank you! Questions? Please contact Becky at children@hslckirkland.org.

VBS & Day Camp 2023—UnderSea Adventure! Monday, July 17th - Friday, July 21st

All kids ages 4 through 2nd grade are invited to join us at Vacation Bible School, and 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are invited to Day Camp! Join in a week of Bible stories, energetic games, fabulous music, craft creation, exploring science, and delicious snacks at UnderSea Adventure! Registration is open NOW! We'll also need lots of volunteers, so visit the website www.holyspiritvbs.org to fill out your application. Questions? Contact Becky at children@hslckirkland.org.



Help Build a Tiny House for Someone Experiencing Homelessness!

Monday – Friday, July 24-28; 9 am – 3 pm daily

The Middle School Youth will be working on building another tiny house this year during our Summer Week of Service at the end of July and we would love some help! Our Project Manager, Cal Pygot has helped us build several tiny houses here at Holy Spirit over the year and he is an amazing teacher. We work with a non-profit organization called Low Income Housing Institute (LiHi.org). The tiny house we build will become a home for someone experiencing homelessness in the great Puget Sound area. Would you like to be part of this incredible opportunity? Please contact Tammie (confirmation@hslckirkland.org) or Cal (crp85@hotmail.com) to find out how you can do that! Thank you!



Music Makings this Month in Worship

Check out below when the various choirs and ensembles of HSLC are offering music this month. We'll see you in worship!

May 7th - Children, Youth, and Family Sunday

9:30: Chancel Choir

9:30 & 11:00: Combined Ringing Choirs

May 21st - Music Sunday

9:30 & 11:00:- Chancel Choir, Spirit Ringers, Instrumental Ensembles

Music Sunday - Sunday, May 21st at all three services, with choirs and other ensembles, at 9:30 am and 11 am

We look forward praising and thanking God in song and music in this beloved HSLC tradition. This year's theme is *That They May All Be One*. Come celebrate new life, light, and unity in Christ with music from around the world. Interested in participating? Contact John Sparkman at music@hslckirkland.org.

2023 Senior Art Show—June 8th - 22nd

Hello, Vintage Spirits! Many of you are full of creative energy and talents, so you are invited to enter the City of Kirkland's 13th Annual Senior Council Art Show.

Hosted and co-sponsored by Merrill Gardens at 14 Main Street South in downtown Kirkland. Art can be paintings (many types), drawings, photos, quilts, sculpture and "other media". "People's Choice Awards" will be awarded by popular voting during the event.

If you have questions or would like an application, please send an e-mail to Scouncil@kirklandwa.gov or contact the Peter Kirk Community Center at 425-587-3360.

A Prayer from the NW-WA Synod

*God of life and breath, you are our source of hope;
We give thanks for your gifts of life and love;
Sustain us when we are feeling weary, broken, lost, or frightened;
Open our hearts and minds to hear your word and call;
Reform in us what needs reforming;
Inspire us to be your hands and voice in your world;
Strengthen us to take action to seek justice for our neighbors;
Grant us courage and creativity to joyfully share your Good News.
Amen.*

Social Justice News

from Jack Staudt - your Social Justice Housing Advocate

This month's Social Justice notes are a big... THANK YOU!

As part of my role as your Housing Advocate, I receive letters from the non-profits you support with a portion of your gift to Holy Spirit, allocated to the Social Justice budget. As my focus is on Homelessness and Housing, I want to share those thank-you letters with you.

Contributions to *Attain Housing* helped support 45 families, consisting of 80 children living in their 37 apartments. Their *Stable Home Rent Assistance* program prevented another 182 households from becoming homeless. Those households included 330 children.

Gifts toward *New Bethlehem Programs*, including the *New Bethlehem Family Shelter* at Salt House Church, help them continue 24-7 support for temporary housing and wrap-around social services provided by CCS, for 10 families (with children under age 18) on the first floor of the 19,000-square-foot building.

Sophia Way thanks you for dozens of Fred Meyer Gift cards, shared directly with the women residing in the *Helen's Place* shelter, which is upstairs from *New Bethlehem Place Shelter*. These gift cards help provide these women with additional personal resources they need to navigate their journey to stability.

Thank you for your continued support for families in need in our community.

Want to learn more...

<https://www.attainhousing.org/>

<https://ccsww.org/get-help/shelter-homeless-services/new-bethlehem/>

<https://sophiaway.org/helens-place/>

Exploring the Labyrinth

We find images of labyrinths going back more than 5,000 years: on coins and jewelry, painted on pottery, set in mosaics, carved into rocks, and laid out in gardens. They are found in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

Christians found in this meandering but purposeful path a deep connection to the teachings of their faith, in particular a symbolic journey to their center, Jesus Christ. Although two-dimensional, the labyrinth represents the spiral path of spiritual growth in which we are led by grace through the events of our lives to greater union with the Divine.

In contemporary revival of this ancient form, we can walk the labyrinth for insight, for consolation, for releasing burdens, for prayer, for surrender to God, for help with decisions, to calm the spirit, or for many other purposes.

If you would like to experience this prayerful practice, join us for the Midweek Adult Study on May 3rd at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. A labyrinth will be available for you to walk in the Narthex following a brief presentation.

POSTPONED: Native Americans and the Church: Working Towards Healing and Wholeness

Due to the conflict with the Synod Gathering on May 20th, this workshop by Vance Blackfox has been postponed to October 14th.



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May 2023 HSLC Newsletter

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

Go Paperless!

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