



Compassionate. Challenging. Inclusive.

Monthly Newsletter

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Cultivating Community

by Pastor Katy

Jesus said, 'What is the kingdom of God like, and to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.'

– Luke 13:18-19

It's the time of year when I have seeds on the brain. As far as the garden is concerned, all things are possible right now! We might end up with gorgeous, ripe tomatoes; tall, sturdy sunflowers; sweet green beans; wispy, delicate cosmos; crunchy, earthy carrots.

Or we might end up with slug-eaten leaves, tomato rot, carrots stubbier than my thumb, sunflowers that get so top-heavy they break in the night, and green beans devoured by bunnies. That's all possible too.

What will make the difference? Some factors we can't control: sunshine, rain, temperature, wind. No matter how hard you work, there are some sources of fortune and misfortune in gardening that will have their way with your crops. Not every seed will blossom into beauty.

But cultivating does make a difference. Working fertilizer into the soil; digging up the old roots; spacing out the seeds so they have room to grow; watering regularly; all of those seemingly small, often daily tasks will add up over time. (I have no recommendations on the bunny problem. Let me know if you do.)

Jesus often uses agricultural images to talk about the kingdom of God – the way God works in the world. In his day and time, many of the folks he spoke to likely spent a lot of time in the dirt, trying to cultivate small crops they could live on and share with neighbors. And so he spoke in ideas they could relate to: seeds, sowing, wheat, weeds, fig trees, and birds of the air.

During the month of May, as a community we take time to think and talk about stewardship: that is, how we use our resources of time, finances, and ability to nurture the kingdom of God through Holy Spirit Lutheran Church. This year, our theme is **Cultivating Community**.

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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.

Save the Date! Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 23rd at 12:15 pm

Your participation, leadership, and vote are vital to the life of this church. We will vote in new Council members, review our financial status, and vote to approve the 2024-2025 budget. Please plan to attend! Lunch and childcare provided.



Pastor's Letter (continued)

I invite you to take time this month to think about cultivating – those seemingly small, daily activities that encourage and facilitate growth within and around you. It's the time of the year when all things are possible! Some things – plenty of things, actually – you can't control. No matter how hard your work, there are sources of fortunate and misfortune that will come your way.

But there are things we can do in the garden of this community. We can nurture the seeds of faith by supporting faith in our young children and families, just beginning on new adventures. We can fertilize the roots of community by paying attention to one another, praying for each other, and calling someone just to check in.

We can branch out in love for our community by imagining new ways to support those who are experiencing homelessness, keep our new Community Pantry filled and ready, and welcome new refugees among us. We can push ourselves to be better gardeners by reaching toward solar panels, electric car charging stations, and a smaller carbon footprint for our building.

If, as Jesus said, the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, then even the smallest things have enormous potential. Every gift makes a difference. Every act of caring for the garden – of cultivating community – is done in partnership with God.

The world is hungry for a good harvest. For true belonging. For justice and peace. For tables where no one is sent away and there is plenty for all. And the only way to get there is by cultivating what matters. Tending to the beautiful garden God has given us. Sharing what we have with one another and the world.

It's the time of the year when we have seeds on the brain. For with God, all things are possible. Who knows what we might end up with?

- Pastor Katy

Summer Spirit Connections Events

This group of 21+ folks are excited to get together for a variety of events this summer...

- Saturday, June 8th, time TBD - Escape Room at Conundroom in Redmond. Cost is \$35/person.
- Thursday, August 8th, 6:30 pm – Mariners Game vs. Detroit Tigers. Cost is \$15 per person. Family-friendly (kids and people under 21 are welcome).

Don't let cost stop you from coming! Scholarships are available. Contact Pastor Gina at pastorgina@hslckirkland.org for more details.

Library News - New Fiction!

There is sometimes nothing like a good novel to not only entertain, but to expand your thinking. New ways to see the world, yourself, human nature: a story can take you there. Here are some recent fiction acquisitions to the HSLC library. All come highly recommended by at least one friend of the library.

- *Washington Black* by Esi Edugyan – An enslaved boy in Barbados has many adventures which explore the nature of freedom.
- *The End of Drum-Time* by Hanna Pylvainen – Romance, religion, and class in nineteenth-century Lapland.
- *Absolution* by Alice McDermott – American wives in war-time Saigon search for meaning.
- *Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese – A long book following multiple generations of a family in India, and in the process teaching the reader about changes in India and in medicine.
- *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters – The mysterious disappearance of a child turns a light on both family dynamics and racism.
- *Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid – A slightly fantastical account of a young couple forced to flee their homeland.
- *Arboreality* by Rebecca Campbell - A West Coast community in the not-so-terribly distant future finds ways to survive catastrophic climate change.

Happy reading!

- Ruth Munger, Library Committee Chair



Middle School Summer Youth Group starting Wednesday, May 15th at 7:00 pm

All in grades 6-8 during the 23/24 school year - join us once or twice a month on Wednesday nights throughout the summer to gather together for some fun and stay connected with your group. Our first Youth Group is Wednesday, May 15th at 7:00 pm in the Youth Room at church. Join us for Team Trivia Night! Questions? Contact Tammie at confirmation@hslckirkland.org.

Middle School Summer Week of Service Monday, July 22nd through Friday, July 26th | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm daily

All in grades 6-8 during the 23/24 school year - join us as we work together to serve our neighbors! Each day, we will work on a different service project at the church or we will take the church shuttle to another location for our service projects. Cost for the week is \$150 and includes food and transportation as well as money to cover the cost of the service projects. For more information and to sign up, visit hslckirkland.org/summer-week-of-service. Registration deadline is June 28th. Questions? Contact Tammie at confirmation@hslckirkland.org.

VBS & Day Camp 2024—Treasure Hunt! Monday, July 29th - Friday, August 2nd

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 during our Treasure Hunt! We'll also need lots of volunteers, so mark your calendars now! Registration is open now the website - please visit holyspiritvbs.org for more information and to sign up and/or volunteer. Questions? Contact Becky at children@hslckirkland.org.





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

www.hslckirkland.org
425.823.2727
office@hslckirkland.org

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May 2024 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

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