



Compassionate. Challenging. Inclusive.

Monthly Newsletter

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Church (Taylor's Version)

by Pastor Katy McCallum Sachse

Without a doubt, the highlight of our family's summer was the Taylor Swift concert at Lumen Field on Saturday, July 22nd.

(Before you wonder too much, we lucked into tickets when they went on sale through the determination and good fortune of my brother, who is our family's Secret Sauce when it comes to ticket procurement. Our seats weren't fantastic, but they weren't terribly expensive and hey – we were in the stadium! That's all we needed.)

If Taylor Swift isn't your jam, just know that she has spent the summer on her "Eras" Tour, crossing the United States selling out stadiums, causing traffic jams, emptying bead stores of supplies (more on that later), and even causing an earthquake during the Seattle concert. She's sold an estimated 114 million albums worldwide, and her fans are well-known for a nearly unprecedented level of devotion. She is, in short, a phenomenon. And her shows are an experience.

We left home at 2:00 pm to catch the train from Edmonds to Seattle, not only because Taylor Swift alone would cause traffic problems, but because that also happened to be

a weekend that included Mariners games, the closure of 520, and multiple other construction projects. By the time we arrived home and climbed into bed, it was 2:00 am the next day. Worth it? Absolutely.

I happen to live with a devoted Swiftie, our 12-year old daughter. So I knew many of the songs, and I felt like I had a reasonable handle on lyrics. We all had special outfits to wear, as did every fan in attendance that night: many inspired by songs or albums, lyrics or words, imagery or phrases throughout Taylor's music.

But I turned out to be a complete neophyte when it came to Taylor Swift Fandom. All around us, for the whole 3 ½ hours she sang (yep, you read that correctly), every person there sang with every single lyric. The moment a new song started, the screams and cheers erupted in recognition. Certain phrases were shouted with joy and laughter; I thought it was an accomplishment to sing along with "Shake It Off," but I was totally out of my element. I was surrounded by Professional Swifties. And it was fantastic.

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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.

Fall Ministry Fair—Sunday, September 10th

Ministry Fair is coming on Sunday, September 10th after all three services! This is your opportunity to learn more about all the amazing ministries offered at HSLC. Visit all four tables - Grow, Serve, Connect, and Worship - and learn how you can get involved, meet new friends, and connect more deeply here at HSLC, plus collect stamps to enter a fun raffle! Stop by the Fellowship Hall after worship to learn more, make connections, enter the raffle, grab some coffee and treats, and more. If you have questions or something you'd like to donate for inclusion in the raffle, contact the church office.

Pastor's Letter (continued)

Since then, I've read a few articles comparing Taylor Swift concerts to church. There was something religious about the experience – about 72,000+ fans singing, dancing, bound together by a mutually transcendent experience with total strangers. Could we learn something from Taylor? Here are some possibilities:

Community Matters. Being at a Taylor Swift concert is not an individual experience; it's intentionally communal. There are rituals involved, including trading beaded bracelets inspired by song and lyrics – so many bracelets that local bead stores regularly sell out before Taylor arrives in town. Whatever differences concert-goers have pale in comparison to being part of the community created in the stadium that night.

Everybody's Voice Matters. None of us in the stadium that night could sing like Taylor. And often, at a concert, I find myself irritated when others sing along with the professional – I'm here for them, I think, not for you! But in this case, a huge part of the experience was singing, at the top of our untalented lungs, without a care about performance or perfection. Just sing! Don't know the words? Forgot the lyrics? Never heard this one before? Who cares! Every voice belongs.

Joy Matters. "You're going to have to deal with my emotions," Swift said to all of us, "and if you haven't heard, I have... a lot of them." She's well-known for writing lyrics that reflect sadness, heartbreak, anger, and revenge. But she also sings about hope, life, joy, humor, even justice (just check out one of my favorites, "You Need to Calm Down"). And the experience of singing all those emotions together is a freedom, a form of joy. Just broke up with someone? Not sure about your self-image? Mad about a friend's betrayal? Up for a night out dancing? There's a song for that. Sing it. Enjoy it. And find someone else to sing with. Life can be hard, and we need joy like we need air, and water, and food.

As fall programming gets going at Holy Spirit, I hope you'll join us for community, for music, for joy – because your voice matters.

Let's make the whole place shimmer. See you soon!

- Pastor Katy



Common Hope "Walk for Hope" Sunday, September 24th | 10:30 am

Common Hope is an organization working in Guatemala to end generational poverty through a model that utilizes education as a solution. Each year *Common Hope* sponsors a walk to raise funds. We have chosen Sunday morning, September 24 to support *Common Hope*. All participants are invited to join us for a combination social gathering and fundraiser for *Common Hope*. Participation in the fundraiser is not a requirement to participate. The walk will start and end at HSLC. Routes will be identified to Juanita Beach and Juanita Bay. The routes are 1.5 and 3 miles long respectively.

Participants are encouraged to socialize before and after the walk. Following the walk, a complimentary light lunch will be available, and everyone is encouraged to gather for conversation. Advance registration is not required. A team page has been established for donations and can be found at give.commonhope.org/holyspiritlutheran.

This year's "Walk For Hope" will raise funds and awareness for critical services such as preventative health screenings, dental clinics, and wellness education so that students can stay in school and earn their diploma! Last year's "Walk for Hope" event raised over \$60,000 for *Common Hope's* programs in Guatemala, and we couldn't have done it without you. We're so thankful for your support over the years that has helped make the "Walk for Hope" a success and We hope you will walk with us at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church on Sunday, September 24th!

Questions? Contact Doug Jacobson at ddjacobson@frontier.com.

Safe Haven Training

Tuesday, September 12th | 6:00 pm via Zoom

At HSLC, we care about children and vulnerable adults and the people who work with them. It is our goal to provide a warm, friendly, and safe environment in which we can nurture the faith development of everyone we encounter. Therefore, volunteers (including Council members) who work with children and/or vulnerable adults are required to take Safe Haven Training. It lasts about an hour, and you only have to take it once every three years. If you've received an e-mail letting you know that it's time to take Safe Haven Training, please sign up at hslckirkland.org/safe-haven-registration. You'll receive the Zoom link prior to the day of training. If you're not sure if you need Safe Haven training, or have any other questions, contact Joan at safehaven@hslckirkland.org.

Mom's Midweek Ministry

Thursdays | 9:45 am, starting September 14th

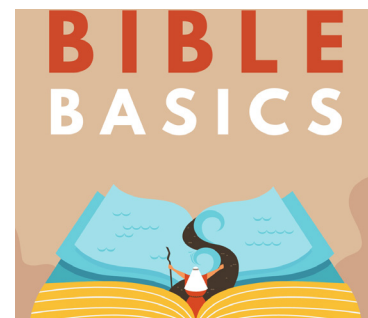
We are a group of real moms, with real kids who strive to connect with one another in the joys and challenges of parenthood, knowing God gently leads us in this extraordinary task of being a mom. We meet weekly at 9:45 am beginning September 14th to enjoy breakfast, fellowship, and coffee. Throughout the year, we also have bible study, book study, crafts, speakers, discussion topics, prayer, and more. Childcare is provided. More information and online registration is at hslckirkland.org/m3-registration. You can pay the fees at the first meeting in September. Questions? Contact Becky at children@hslckirkland.org.



Bible Basics

Saturday, September 9th | 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm

The Bible Basics class is designed for children who have just entered the 2nd grade or older. They learn about the Bible and are then presented with their own Bible during worship. The class includes teaching the children how to use their bibles, a bit of how the bible is laid out, and time for them to discover some other things about their specific bible. For more information and to register, visit hslckirkland.org/bible-basics-class. Questions? Contact Becky at children@hslckirkland.org.



Nursery Open House

Sunday, September 10th and Sunday, September 17th

9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Our nursery staff is excited to have our youngest ones join us this fall during worship, adult education, and other events. They provide consistent, loving attention to your child while engaging them in creative play, Bible stories, and crafts. You are invited to stop by the nursery to meet our wonderful staff and see what the children are doing.

Questions? Contact Becky at children@hslckirkland.org.

Acolyte Training

Saturday, September 15th | 5:00 pm

4th, 5th, and 6th graders who are interested in joining our acolyte team, there is an acolyte training just for you. You'll learn more about what it means to be an acolyte, do a bit of practice, and ask questions. Training will last approximately 45 minutes. Register online at hslckirkland.org/acolyte-form. Questions? Contact Becky at children@hslckirkland.org.



Route 456 Mini Lock-In

Friday, September 15th | 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm

4th, 5th, and 6th graders - Join other friends from HSLC for an evening of food, games, and a movie! This is a great way to start the year with your friends. Pizza and drinks provided. Please bring your favorite snack to share. You can also bring a pillow and/or sleeping bag to get comfy while watching the movie. Friends are ALWAYS welcome at all of our events!

Parents: Please plan to stay for the first 20 minutes. We will do some "get to know you" activities so parents and children can get to know each other.

Please sign-up online at hslckirkland.org/rt456-event so we have enough pizza and drinks! Questions? Contact Becky at children@hslckirkland.org.



2023 Middle School Week of Service Update

During the week of July 24, 15 Middle School youth gathered at the church to do some service projects. Here is an update of what we accomplished during that week.

- We packed over 1300 meals through Children of the Nations, which will be shipped to Sierra Leone, where the poverty level is extreme.
- We gathered hundreds of pounds of food for our one-day free pantry that was held at the church that Friday. We worked with Nourishing Network to get the work out to the broader community about our pantry. Some of the food we gathered made its way to many places in our community, including the Veteran Center, Safe Parking Program at the Rose Hill United Methodist Church, Plateful (aplatefull.org), the pink pantry behind the church, and many other places.
- We are very thankful for the donations that helped make the food pantry and the week of service happen. The food for the pantry came from generous donations made by the congregation, some came from grants from Thrivent, and Corporate Matching Funds. Some of the funds also came from the families of the youth who participated in the week of service.
- We built part of a tiny house. Building a tiny house takes more than a week to complete, so other volunteers stepped in to help finish the tiny house.

A huge thank you goes to the Social Justice Committee, whose very generous support was key in buying the supplies to make the tiny house project happen. I want to thank everyone who helped with the projects during our week of service, and I am so blessed to be a part of a congregation who fully supports the youth and family programs and our efforts to provide this kind of large-scale service to the community. You are an incredible example to our youth.

*Tiny house update: The tiny house was delivered to Seattle, where it will find its way to one of the tiny house villages. LiHi (Low Income Housing Institute) is planning two new tiny house villages to open by the end of this year. It is awesome to know that our tiny house will make a home for someone who needs it.

- Tammie Zarfos

Confirmation Begins Wednesday, September 13th

Confirmation for grades 7-9 begins on Wednesday, September 13th at 7:00 pm with a meeting for Confirmation students, parents and group leaders at the church. Registration is all online on the church website: hslckirkland.org -> Children & Youth -> Confirmation.

Questions? Contact Tammie Zarfos at confirmation@hslckirkland.org.

Middle School Kick-Off

Sunday, September 24th | 12:30 pm to 6:30 pm

More information to come, so save the date! Questions? Contact Becky at children@hslckirkland.org.

Social Justice - Homelessness

Homelessness is not going away. Inflation in housing costs, job losses and illness during Covid exacerbated the problem. Federal funds helped many people stay in their homes, but now those eviction moratoriums and rent support programs are limited, and new state programs are just beginning to cope with the increasing numbers of homeless people of all ages.

What if you had a good life, including a college education, a professional career, a long happy marriage, but then your spouse got sick? You retire and care for them, years go by and health care bills mount, and they pass away leaving you in debt. Even with a pension and Social Security, escalating rent becomes a burden, and then you get sick, more hospital bills, and you can't pay the rent... This is a real story of a 75-year-old woman who becomes homeless in our community. Where could she start to look for help? There are many other stories of good people living normal lives and then an unexpected crisis leads to homelessness.

If you have outlived family and friends and are alone, you put your belongings in storage, and maybe sleep in your car a few nights to wonder where to go from here. Perhaps you hear about a church that will let you park safely overnight in their lot. And they offer toileting options, meals, and someone who helps you connect with other resources. In Kirkland, that would be the Lake Washington United Methodist Church Safe Parking program. The next step might be a referral to Sophia Way - Helen's Place Shelter for Women at Salt House Church.

Or, if you were a parent with children, you might be referred to the New Bethlehem Shelter, in the same building, located on former Salt House property. Both shelters would offer caring counseling to get you on a plan to again be housed and becoming independent again. As a family, you would be referred to Attain Housing. They will help you with transitional housing (six months to a year) and much more. Their staff refers clients to needed services, homeless prevention resources, and ultimately assists them in securing permanent housing. The last step might be Imagine Housing, who can assist you in gaining a permanent apartment of your own with subsidized rent, in one of their four buildings in Kirkland.

This is the faith-based continuum of care for the homeless in Kirkland. You support these five ministries with your gifts to the General Fund, as well as donations to the "Ministry in the World" fund at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church. There are of course many other agencies and resources in our county and Eastside cities. But these all began or are supported by faith-based groups and have served our community for many years.

If you want more information or have a passion for Social Justice causes, reach out to Jack Staudt - jackmstaudt@gmail.com

Native Americans and the Church: Working Towards Healing and Wholeness

Saturday, October 14th at HSLC | 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Mark your calendars! On Saturday, October 14th, we are excited to welcome Vance Blackfox, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, and the ELCA director for Indigenous ministries and tribal relations. He will be leading a one-day seminar at HSLC about the history and struggles of Native American peoples, as well as conversations around working towards healing relationships with indigenous peoples and learning from them about their relationship to Mother Earth. The seminar will be from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm and will include lunch. This event is open to the entire synod – all are welcome! We are asking for a donation of \$25 per person, but scholarships are available, so don't let cost dissuade you from coming! Registration for the event opens September 13th. For more information, contact Pastor Gina at pastorgina@hslckirkland.org.





Music Notes—Ensembles Return in September

Join in the music making this fall! All are invited!

The **CHANCEL CHOIR** meets on Thursday nights from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm beginning Thursday, September 7th. All are welcome, and no audition is required.

The **SPIRIT RINGERS** meets on Thursday nights from 5:45 pm - 6:45 pm beginning September 7th. This handbell choir for adults with at least some music reading background always needs substitutes to step in when regular members of the choir need to be away.

The **JOYFUL RINGERS**, an introductory handbell choir for children in grades 2 through 5, meets on Wednesday nights from 5:15 pm - 5:45 pm beginning September 13th. All kids are encouraged to join the choir, where we introduce working together as a group, while learning to read music and rhythm notation. Let us know to plan for your child by registering on the Children & Youth area of the HSLC website.

The **REJOICING RINGERS**, a handbell choir for kids and youth grades 6 and up, also meets on Wednesday nights from 5:45 pm - 6:30 pm beginning September 13th, conveniently just before Confirmation programming! Some music reading background is helpful, but not required. All ringers are welcome!

The **WOODWIND ENSEMBLE** will first meet together for rehearsal on Sunday, September 24th at 12:15 pm.

The **BRASS ENSEMBLE**, for brass and timpani players of all ages with at least 3-4 years of playing experience, will first meet together for rehearsal on Sunday, October 15th at 12:15 pm.

Reach out to John Sparkman at music@hslckirkland.org with questions or to express interest in any of HSLC's musical ensembles.



JOIN US FOR

**MIDWEEK
MEAL**



Midweek Meals Return

Wednesdays from 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm, starting September 13th

After a break for the summer, Midweek Meals will resume Wednesday evenings beginning September 13th. After the meal, you'll find music rehearsals, Confirmation, adult education (*Way to Live* adult study starts October 4th), learning opportunities for K-5th grade (*Kidz Club* starts October 4th), and childcare for birth through Pre-K. All are welcome and we hope you'll consider making this a part of your weekly routine!

HSLC Library Q&A

Q: What is the easiest way for me to find a book to read?

A: Three ways! One, check the display in the church narthex/lobby area. Two, stop by the Library Express table in the Fellowship Hall on the last Sunday of the month. Three, come downstairs to the library itself and turn to your left. Books (usually newer acquisitions) are displayed on the counter by the windows and in the windows themselves, facing outwards. All displayed books are available to check out. (Yes, even the ones in the windows!)

Q: How long may I keep the book?

A: As long as you need to finish it. After 30 days, you may get a call from a library volunteer to make sure the book is still being read and not just forgotten. (We all do it!)

Q: When is the library open?

A: Trick question! The library is always open. Sometimes the lights are turned off, which doesn't seem as welcoming, but you are ALWAYS welcome to come in and turn the lights on yourself. The switches are to your right as you come in the door.

If you have any other questions, contact Ruth Munger at ruthmunger@comcast.net.

Happy reading!



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

Morning Meditation Saturday, September 9th | 10:00 am

The members of the Contemplative Prayer group invites you to join them for Morning Meditation on Saturday, September 9th at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary. The service will include prayer, simple music, 20 minutes of silent meditation, and encounter of 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.



Styrofoam Recycling Event at Holy Family Catholic Church (7045 120th Ave NE, Kirkland) Saturday, September 16th | 9:00 am to noon

Bring clean polystyrene materials to the back of their parking lot to be recycled. All materials must be clean, dry and free of tape or labels. Accept materials: styrofoam, take-out containers, polyethylene, styrofoam sheets, and bagged packing peanuts. For more information, please contact Andrea Liggett at andrea@hfkparish.org.

Vintage Spirits Trip to Cougar Mountain Zoo Wednesday, September 20th | 9:30 am

Did you know that a Bengal tiger litter can have cubs of different colors? Come and see at the Cougar Mountain Zoo. Vintage Spirits has planned an outing to the zoo on Wednesday, September 20th. We will leave the church at 9:30 am, have a guided tour at the zoo at 10:00 am (including the Tiger Tunnel), lunch in Issaquah, and return around 2:00 pm. Zoo admission fee is \$16 per person. Note: There are walking up/down slopes on pavement, but there are plenty of benches for rest stops. Sign up online at hslckirkland.org/vintage-spirits. Maximum number is 18 people.



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September 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!

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!

HSLC Backyard Block Party Sunday, September 17th | 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Please join us for our second annual HSLC Backyard Party! Steve Montague's band *BORIS CAN DANCE* will offer music, we'll have a bouncy house and games for kids for all ages! HSLC will provide the main dish (think burgers and dogs) and everyone else is asked to bring a side dish according to the first letter of your last name:

A-C: pasta dishes **D-H:** salads **I-M:** veggies or fruit **N-R:** chips or beverages **S-Z:** desserts

Invite a few friends and neighbors to share in this fun fellowship event to kick-off HSLC's fall programming. Don't forget to wear your dancing shoes!