



CrossCurrents

Pastor's Perspective

One evening last month I was working late. It was an evening not unlike many others. Not just because I was working late, but because many other folks were on campus, too.

In the Sanctuary, eight members of the Mosaic band led by our wonderful and talented Director of Music Ministries Ben Fowler were rehearsing for a very special worship service featuring lots of global music. The service was inspired by our sister Vernetta Rae, whose Memorial Service was scheduled later in the afternoon on the same Sunday for which the band was preparing music. Vernetta was the founding force for our Tanzania mission trips which have helped us grow in faith and grow international relationships that mean so much to Cross of Christ. We've now taken three groups of CofC folks to Africa, visiting and supporting our partners with the Lutheran Church of Tanzania, MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School, the Plaster House medical center, and more.

Meanwhile, our Ark Early Learning Center's Board was attending to the business of our preschool at their monthly meeting in the Library. The Board, made of members of Cross of Christ and parents of Ark students, was happily discussing the school's full enrolment, exciting fall program plans, and how well the transition process is going from our founding director Jan Galbraith to our new director Solange Silva. Another topic of discussion was the joy of welcoming our diverse student population every day and sharing with them the love of Jesus through our awesome staff of teachers.

In the Conference Room, a small but growing group of Romanian Christians were gathered for a Bible Study. I just met with their leader, Pastor John, about six weeks prior, offering them space to begin this outreach in the Crossroads and Lake Hills area. On this night, Pastor John asked if we might meet again soon to discuss the use of a bigger room, as their numbers are increasing rapidly. He was beaming and could not contain his gratitude to Cross of Christ.

Continued on page two.

The Office will be closed for Labor Day, September 3 and for Thanksgiving, November 22 and 23.

Continued from page one.

The biggest group of all was in the Fellowship Hall. Kannada Bharati is an Indian not-for-profit organization focused on sharing their culture and traditions, especially with children. They were hosting a troupe of performers that included musicians, dancers, and actors, presenting a colorful, high-energy performance which one of the organizers told me dates back more than 1,000 years. I had the privilege of joining the audience of about 80 of our neighbors for a time. Even though I didn't understand the language, the joy of the performers and audience members alike was contagious. What fun!

The following morning, I met with the Executive Director of Bellevue Youth Choirs to go over their expanded rental agreement with Cross of Christ, adding the Boy Choir rehearsals to the Girl's, renting some office and meeting space time, and expanding their music storage rental with us as well. Madeleine Stephens (who, by the way, is a proud graduate of St. Olaf College, a Lutheran school noted for its outstanding music) and I also discussed BYC becoming our second Artists in Residence, joining Emerald City Ringers. Together, more than 200 local young people from widely diverse backgrounds come to Cross of Christ weekly for Boy and Girl Choir rehearsals.

It wasn't all that unusual for groups like these to be on our church campus. But something about the diversity, energy, and optimism of that recent evening and following morning touched me. As we go forward with discussions and fact-finding, exploring missional and ministry opportunities for the present and future of Cross of Christ, I was powerfully struck by how many ways we are already blessed to use our grounds, facilities, and most of all our spirit of hospitality to welcome so many of our neighbors - and especially our youngest neighbors - to come to our place, to get to know us, and perhaps through us get a glimpse into why we love our Lord Jesus so much and want to share his love with others.

Here's to many, many more nights and days when our campus, our calendar, and our hearts are filled with connections to our community for the sake of the Gospel.

Blessed to serve with you,

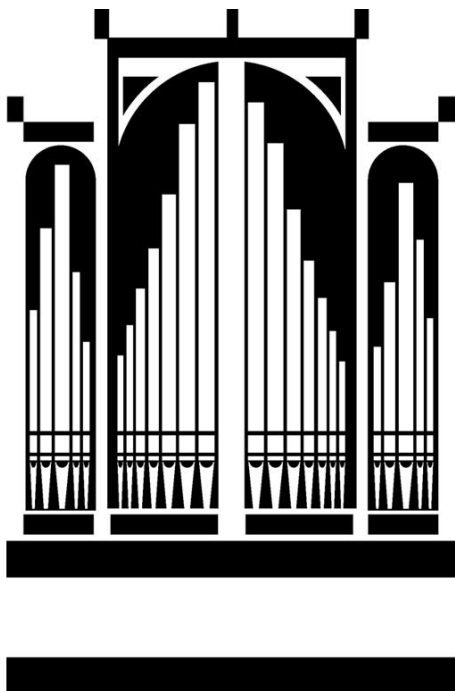
Pastor Dave

Two-Service Worship Schedule Returns September 9

Our single-service summer schedule wraps up on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, September 2. The following Sunday, September 9, we return to our two-service schedule with Traditional Worship at 9 am, our casual Mosaic Worship at 11 am, and Adult Faith Formation and Children's Sunday School between services. An email reminder will be sent the week prior. See you in worship!



Reformation Sunday Worship and Organ Concert



We celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit through Martin Luther and other reformers who drew the church back to the central, grace-filled message of the Gospel in festive worship on Sunday, October 28, at both our Traditional (9 am) and Casual (11 am) worship services. Pastor Dave will host a special Reformation-themed Adult Faith Formation that day between services in the Library.

That afternoon we welcome back organist Nick Abbott for a very special concert and worship experience at 3 pm in the Sanctuary featuring music from both Lutheran and Catholic traditions as we celebrate the drawing closer together of Catholic and Protestant theology since Vatican II. Nick will show off the (by then) recently completed organ upgrade and expansion project funded by a very generous donation by Doug Lieberg. The organ will be officially dedicated at this service.

Make plans now to wear your red and attend both the morning worship and afternoon concern on this special day for Lutherans and for the whole Church.

Stewardship Play Highlights Combined Worship on September 30

In months with five Sundays, we combine our two services into one at 10 am. The first of the Reunion Sundays for this program year is Sunday, September 30. A highlight of this combined service will be this year's Stewardship Play. This year's play is called "So You Think You Can't Dance" and features lots of laughs, a little dancing, and a meaningful message shared in a fun, entertaining way. Mark your calendars – you won't want to miss it!

"So You Think You Can't Dance"



WELCA Bible Study Leaders Meetings this Fall

Circle leaders who will be facilitating Bible Study discussions this fall are invited to prepare with Pastor Dave as he goes over the study from "Gather" magazine and provides additional biblical and theological background information. The WELCA Bible Study Leaders meetings are held at 10 am on the first Thursday of the month in the Conference Room. September's meeting is on the 6th, and October's is the 4th.

From Pastor Judy - *Treasures in the Attic*

I loved to read as a kid. I read all the Chronicles of Narnia multiple times, same thing with the Little House on the Prairie Books, Anne of Green Gables series, and Black Stallion books. I read some of the Trixie Belden books, I went through a Civil War phase, and another about Greek/Roman/Norse/Native American mythology. I also loved books by Louisa May Alcott.

One of the Louisa May Alcott books that I really liked, but I have yet to read with my own kids was called "An Old Fashioned Girl". The book revolves around Polly Milton, the old-fashioned girl who titles the story. Polly visits her wealthy friend Fanny Shaw in the city and is overwhelmed by the fashionable and urban life they live—but also left out because of her "countrified" manners and outdated clothes. There's a lot that I remember liking about this book, but the thing that I want to tell you about now is the relationship that Polly forms with Fanny's grandmother, who lives in the attic of this fancy house.

Fanny and her brother and sister can't understand initially why Polly likes to go up to the attic to visit with their grandmother, but eventually

they become curious and she invites them up. One of the things that Polly and the grandmother show them is an old trunk full of "stuff". As it turns out each of the items in the old trunk is connected in some way to a memory that the grandmother has of her life.

Each time the children come and visit her, they are allowed to choose one item from the trunk and the grandmother tells them a story connected with that particular item. Through these stories, the children learn more about their grandmother, the children share their reactions and questions, and the relationship between these generations deepens.

One of the reasons why I love to visit people is because I love stories – both written and oral. I feel it's a privilege when people share the stories about their lives that mean the most to them – about their relationships, their accomplishments, their regrets, their adventures. We all have these stories to tell, but all too often I'm afraid these stories stay locked in the attic.

During October, our church is going to host a Saturday workshop covering a whole range of end-of-life issues. However old you are, I hope you consider coming. There will be a lot of topics covered from insurance, wills, medical directives, funeral-memorial planning, etc. But in the midst of all of these kind of logistical things, I guess I want to add the importance of figuring out a way that works for you to share your memories.

Sharing our memories may not be as easy to figure out as what to do with physical assets, but I think in some ways they are more important. How do we turn memories, lessons, and feelings into somethings that can be passed on?



Betty McConnell



Kay Anderson

I read an article a few months ago in the Reader's Digest that gave some encouragement and some steps for how to go about this task. It said the first step was to create an inventory – list the things you already have, such as photos, letters, videos and figure out what you still want to collect and how. Next step was to make a plan – find things that are missing, figure out in what way you want to collect and distribute these things, and identify who should get them. It may seem like a big task to collect and share our memories, but we can start small. How about begin with a little video of what you remember about your wedding, your first job, or a favorite food when you were little. You could write about your favorite place to visit, a family member who was special to you, or a mistake that taught you a life lesson. All these little efforts add up – and sharing these pieces of ourselves with others can strengthen our relationships.



Bill McConnell

The preparations we make now are part of our legacy. Memories are gifts to those we leave behind and can witness to our beliefs. I hope we all find ways to share the treasures in our attic – our stories, our memories, and our faith with others.

Pastor Judy

Council Update

ROOF TRUSS REPAIRS

At the annual meeting the congregation approved the Council to move forward with repairing the roof trusses. We are finalizing the application process to secure a loan from the Mission Investment Fund ELCA, which is a Lutheran based firm, and re-engaging the contractor, Ryan Construction. The Council will take action at the August meeting to approve signing a letter to proceed with design services with Ryan Construction for building permit submittal. This phase of the process will cost up to a maximum of \$8,800. Ryan Construction recognizes the need to expedite the repairs and are planning on providing deliverables within two weeks of receiving notice to proceed. The next step will be to secure a building permit and approving a letter with Ryan Construction to proceed with roof truss repairs. The congregation will be kept informed in regards to expenses associated with the repairs as the project moves forward. If you have any questions regarding the process, please contact Hank Stoll, Council representative, or Art Hill.

VISIONING PROCESS - COUNCIL LED TEAMS

Exciting times ahead! To coincide with the repair of the roof trusses, the Council has established teams that will help us to move our church forward. Teams include visioning, property, truss repair, building use, and financial. This is the first step to gather data and we need your help. This is a great opportunity to discover what new ministries or services our congregation could become engaged with in the future. If you have an interest in participating or have questions, please contact Congregational

President Gale Hill.

MUSIC MINISTRIES



We eat because we are hungry; we sleep because we are tired. But there are many other things we do without a clear sense of why we do them. As a music director, a question I've often considered is, "why do human beings sing?" I'd like to invite you to consider that with me.

We sing to mark important occasions, to pass time while working, to simply enjoy ourselves. We could also give rationales based in history, sociology, psychology, or biology. But we can answer with a fair degree of unanimity. "We sing," they say, "to express how we feel."

In the fourth century, the church father Athanasius (293-376) articulated a different understanding of singing. It includes self-expression, but Athanasius believed singing (specifically, the Psalms) is centrally a spiritual discipline—an important practice in Christian spiritual formation, and a means of growing in the life of faith.

For most of us, we view singing as a means of expression—a way of drawing out what is in us (the *ex* in *expression*). Athanasius very nearly inverts this reasoning: The first and most important outcome of singing the Psalms is *impression*. In singing, the truth of the Psalms is drawn *into* the depths of one's being rather than *out of* the depths of one's being. Both the Old Testament prophets and Jesus had condemning words for those who had learned the words by heart but had failed to learn the heart of the words. Song is valuable because it carries the words inside us (*impression*), and because it carries us to the inside of the words.

This fall I'd like to invite you to be a part of the Music Ministries and join with others in expressing what's in your hearts. And in doing so, allowing the words of God to be *impressed* upon you.

ORGAN REFURBISHMENT PROJECT UPDATE

The organ upgrade, refurbishment, and extension project is well underway and is scheduled to be completed in the next month or so. The console has been upgraded with a state-of-the-art Syndyne electrical switching system that will allow a broader range of flexibility.

The organ project is based on tonal designs of 19th & 20th Century Organ Building from both Europe and America. This tonal design will retain most of the existing pipework as well as introducing new pipework in a style that will give the finest musical result. The overall sound will be rich in scope, with each stop providing enough harmonic flavor for a colorful and versatile instrument. Each division will have as much tonal independence as possible within the mechanical and artistic parameters of an instrument this size with the façade retaining its current visual identity.

We look forward to having Nick Abbott with us for an afternoon concert on Reformation Sunday. Nick was instrumental in guiding this project and we will be blessed to have him return and show us the fruits of this endeavor.

ORGANIST SEARCH UPDATE

As you may know, our organist, Nick Abbott, has accepted a position at a church near his home in North Seattle. We have begun the search for someone to take his place and are immediately looking to fill the position on an interim basis. This will allow us time to do a full search and hopefully find someone of Nick's caliber to fill the position.

For more information about any of our Music Ministries please contact the church office or Ben Fowler – ben@coflc.net.

FALL MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Cantorei Choir

Cantorei is a welcoming, gracious group of singers that leads in worship on Sunday mornings during our traditional 9 AM service and during Festival worship services.

We join our voices together singing sacred music. When you sing with a group of people, you learn how to subsume yourself into a group consciousness because choral singing is all about the immersion of the self into the community. That's one of the great feelings—to stop being me for a little while, and to become us. That way lies empathy, the great social virtue.

Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7:30-8:30 PM. All are welcome to join. If you are only able to participate for a Sunday here and there, that is more than okay!



Carillon Handbell Choir

Carillon is a Coppers-level handbell choir—a fun group of musicians that welcomes all to try your hand at ringing whether you have experience or not. Unlike most musical groups, where you're responsible for playing all notes on the page, when ringing handbells you are just responsible for two (sometimes more, sometimes less) notes plus their associated accidentals. If you can follow two dots on a page and count to 4 (or a variation thereof), you're good to go!

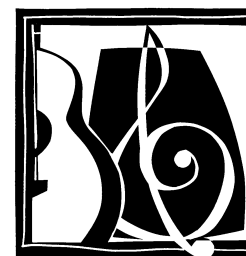
Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 6:15-7:15 PM. We ring in Worship one Sunday per month plus Festival worship services and occasional concerts.



Mosaic

The Mosaic band leads in worship on Sunday mornings during our experiential 11 AM service. The music is a mix of old and new, making the old new and the new old. The general sense of this is that there is great richness in the breadth of Christian worship.

Are you a singer? instrumentalist? actor? dancer? writer? Join us and help shape this beautiful, multifaceted worship experience.



Upcoming Festival Worship Services

Reformation Sunday, October 28 (special afternoon concert by organist Nick Abbott)

- All Saints Day, November 4
- Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service
- Christ the King Sunday, November 25





Plaster House Fund-raising Events

You are invited Tuesday, October 2, to two update/fund raising events: a luncheon at the Women's University Club in Seattle and an evening presentation with bites and drinks here on the Eastside at the Barbee Mill Community Beach Club on Lake Washington in Renton. The Plaster House is one of the organizations supported by the Tanzania Mission Fund and visit by our Mission Teams in 2008, 2012 and 2016. Learn more at



www.theplasterhouse.org.



Golf

The person responsible for setting up the play is listed next to the date. If you would like to play, please call the person responsible for that week before 10AM the Tuesday before.

Snoqualmie Falls Golf Course. Tee Time Thursdays at 10:15 AM

September 6	Rick Parkin 425-890-6839
September 20	Bob Shelley 425-941-1526
September 27	Hank Stoll 847-772-2185
October 4	Sharen Stoll 206-484-7078
October 11	Lorraine Stromswold 425-885-3662
October 18	Nancy Weisel 425-748-4278
October 25	Ron Weisel. 206-999-8626



Join Bellevue Youth Choirs' 2018-19 season!



Conveniently located in the Overlake neighborhood of Bellevue.

No auditions required for girls Preschool – 2nd grade or boys in 1st and 2nd grades.



Auditioned choirs participate in choral festivals and tours, including a 2019 inaugural tour to the UK!

Accepting new choristers for fall enrollment now!



It's back to Sunday School time!



Children's Sunday School

We're taking a Whirl of a journey this year through stories in our NEW Whirl Story Bibles--please join us as we start with the Creation story and move through the Old Testament, meeting new people with fascinating stories to tell us. Our program for kids ages 4-10 will meet in the Youth Room between services starting today and is designed for any child to drop in at any time. We hope to see you there!

Grief Group Welcomes All to Fall Gatherings

Anyone is welcome to join this informal, friendly gathering led by Pastor Dave at 10 am in the Gathering Room on the third Wednesday of the month. We catch up, enjoy goodies (thanks, Lois!), and share with one another in a warm and confidential setting based on a different conversation starter and devotion by Pastor Dave each month. Connect with Pastor Dave to learn more, or come to our gatherings in fall: September 19 and October 17.

Outreach Committee

Crossroads Meal at Salvations Army

Cross of Christ has served a meal for the Crossroads Community for years, 25 plus, on the first Friday of each month. Over that time it has changed places, number served (15-20 early years to nearly 50 now), menu, and those preparing and serving. It has been an ongoing ministry of Cross of Christ serving our neighborhood. For the past several years there have been two teams lead by Monnie Meland and Carol Shelley alternating months. A special Thank you to each of them for their leadership and to all who have participated in this ministry over the years. Monnie is retiring after many years of service. As we go forward we are looking for volunteers who are willing to be called/emailed to see if they are available on any given month. It is the First Friday each month, time 3:45 -- 7PM, we have a set menu: baked chicken, vegetables, rice, fruit salad, rolls and dessert. Four or five people help with the preparation, then transport the meal to Salvation to serve at 6PM. It is a time to work with and get to know fellow members and to reach out to the community.

If interested or want more information please contact Nadine [-nadinebentsen@yahoo.com](mailto:nadinebentsen@yahoo.com).

Congregations for the Homeless Thank You 2018

During the month of May we hosted CFH with approximately 35 men sleeping in our facility. A huge Thank you to the numerous people who supported this Ministry, it truly does take a congregation. Each one of you are important to the success of our hosting the shelter. Thank you for welcoming and caring for the men in this shelter: to the many who made the commitment to visit often, being that familiar welcoming face, to those who provided the wonderful hot meals, those who made sandwiches and provided needed items for lunches and breakfast, and those who made financial contributions to help purchase needed items. A special Thank you to the Community Outreach Committee: Bob Shelley, Arlene Palmerton, Ann Huseby, Nancy Weisel, Kay Marsh, Margie Rogers also Doug Rogers, Jay Marsh and Sterling Bentsen without their commitment to this ministry it could not happen. They spent many hours making sure the program ran smoothly and with care. Also thank you to Pastor Dave for stopping by to visit many evenings. The using of our building effects many and I am grateful for everyone's flexibility but a special Thank You to the Ark Daycare.

I do wish you all could hear the many expressions of gratitude from the men, not only for the great food but for opening our building to them. I believe the men receive many blessings while here, but that we as a congregation and individuals also are greatly blessed.

Annual Back to School Drive

Thank you so much for your generous donations to Congregations for Kids 23rd Annual Back to School Drive.

You are helping low income students in the Bellevue School District by providing them with the essentials they need to get a really good start back to school. It really does make a difference, backpack

by
backpack.



Outreach Committee

Financial Report
Month and YTD Ended March 2018

	Month			Year - to - Date		
	Actual	Budget	Fav (Unfav)	Actual	Budget	Fav (Unfav)
Revenue						
March 2018 General Fund Receipts	\$ 39,718	\$ 37,363	\$ 2,355	\$ 374,470	\$ 408,238	\$ (33,768)
March 2018 Other Income	\$ 6,065	\$ 6,562	\$ (497)	\$ 53,760	\$ 48,733	\$ 5,027
March 2018 Total Income	\$ 45,783	\$ 43,925	\$ 1,858	\$ 428,230	\$ 456,971	\$ (28,741)
Expenses						
March 2018	44,021	41,388	(2,633)	451,653	458,613	6,960
Net/Year to Date Net	\$ 1,762			\$ (23,423)		

Financial Report
Month and YTD Ended April 2018

	Month			Year - to - Date		
	Actual	Budget	Fav (Unfav)	Actual	Budget	Fav (Unfav)
Revenue						
April 2018 General Fund Receipts	\$ 47,140	\$ 37,913	\$ 9,227	\$ 421,610	\$ 446,150	\$ (24,540)
April 2018 Other Income	\$ 5,036	\$ 5,117	\$ (81)	\$ 58,796	\$ 53,850	\$ 4,946
April 2018 Total Income	\$ 52,176	\$ 43,030	\$ 9,146	\$ 480,406	\$ 500,000	\$ (19,594)
Expenses						
April 2018	46,147	41,388	(4,759)	497,800	500,000	2,200
Net/Year to Date Net	\$ 6,029			\$ (17,394)		

Financial Report
Month and YTD Ended May 2018

	Month			Year - to - Date		
	Actual	Budget	Fav (Unfav)	Actual	Budget	Fav (Unfav)
Revenue						
May 2018 General Fund Receipts	\$ 44,762	\$ 32,000	\$ 12,762	\$ 44,762	\$ 32,000	\$ 12,762
May 2018 Other Income	\$ 4,488	\$ 4,850	\$ (362)	\$ 4,488	\$ 4,850	\$ (362)
May 2018 Total Income	\$ 49,250	\$ 36,850	\$ 12,400	\$ 49,250	\$ 36,850	\$ 12,400
Expenses						
May 2018	40,162	49,250	9,088	40,162	49,250	9,088
Net/Year to Date Net	\$ 9,088			\$ 9,088		

Financial Report						
Month and YTD Ended June 2018						
	Month			Year - to - Date		
	Actual	Budget	Fav (Unfav)	Actual	Budget	Fav (Unfav)
Revenue						
June 2018 General Fund Receipts	\$ 29,809	\$ 32,000	\$ (2,191)	\$ 74,571	\$ 64,000	\$ 10,571
June 2018 Other Income	\$ 4,838	\$ 4,850	\$ (12)	\$ 9,327	\$ 9,700	\$ (373)
June 2018 Total Income	\$ 34,647	\$ 36,850	\$ (2,203)	\$ 83,898	\$ 73,700	\$ 10,198
Expenses						
June 2018	45,125	40,635	(4,490)	85,288	80,520	(4,768)
Net/Year to Date Net	\$ (10,478)			\$ (1,390)		

Financial Report
Month and YTD Ended July 2018

	Month			Year - to - Date		
	Actual	Budget	Fav (Unfav)	Actual	Budget	Fav (Unfav)
Revenue						
July 2018 General Fund Receipts	\$ 40,689	\$ 32,000	\$ 8,689	\$ 115,260	\$ 96,000	\$ 19,260
July 2018 Other Income	\$ 4,394	\$ 4,850	\$ (456)	\$ 13,721	\$ 14,550	\$ (829)
July 2018 Total Income	\$ 45,083	\$ 36,850	\$ 8,233	\$ 128,981	\$ 110,550	\$ 18,431
Expenses						
July 2018	39,746	39,155	(591)	125,034	119,675	(5,359)
Net/Year to Date Net	\$ 5,337			\$ 3,947		

Contribution Statements

By now you should have all received your 2018 mid-year contribution statements that included giving through July 31. THANK YOU for your generosity! Please hang onto these statements and do not disregard them. The office has switched to a new management software that will produce contribution statements for the remainder of the year, August – December 2018. You will need to combine both statements to reflect the full year's giving. Please contact Denise Fuentes, Bookkeeper (425) 746-7300 Ext. 108 with any questions.

Publishing Adjustments for Cross Currents

Beginning with this edition, Cross Currents will be published four times a year: Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer. Publication dates will be the first of the month in September, November, February, and May. Deadline for submission is the 15th of the prior month. For example, for inclusion in the Winter Edition published November 1, articles must be submitted by October 15. Thank you.



Return to Two
Services

September 9



9 am Traditional
11am Casual

Lead Pastor
Dave Thomas 425-746-7300 ext.106
pastordave@cofcl.net

Associate Pastor Judy Brennan
pastorjudybrennan@gmail.com 502-415-5883

Director of Music Ministries Ben Fowler
ben@cofcl.net 425-746-7300

Youth and Family Kristie Walker youth@cofcl.net
425-746-7300 ext.107

Office Administrator Judy Giseburt office@cofcl.net
425-746-7300

Bookkeeper
Denise Fuentes bookkeeper@cofcl.net
425-746-7300 ext.108

Sexton
Jamie Monk 425-746-7300

The Ark Childcare Director Solange Silva
arkchildcare@qwestoffice.com

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Cross of Christ
Lutheran Church



Change Service Requested

