



# CrossCurrents



## Mid-Week Lenten Services

This year's Advent Midweek Worship Series is inspired by Henri Nouwen's book "Can You Drink the Cup?"

**Wednesdays** 7pm

**Soup Suppers** 6pm  
in the Fellowship Hall

## Holy Week

**Palm Sunday** 9am and 11am

**Maundy Thursday** 7pm

**Good Friday** 7pm

**Easter Vigil** 7pm

**Easter Sunday** 9am and 11am

## Can Summer Come Sooner this Year?



### Summer Worship Schedule to get Head Start!

April and May will be busy months, with some special events at Cross of Christ, and some busy schedules for staff, including for Pastor Dave. For

these reasons we're going to go to our Summer Worship Schedule early this year – beginning April 8, the Sunday after Easter.

The Rev. Richard Kraiger, father of Cross of Christ member Cyndee Kraiger, a retired ELCA pastor, has volunteered to preach on the Sunday after Easter, April 8. We are honored Pastor Kraiger will be in the pulpit at Cross of Christ. In consideration of his request, we were already planning to have one service on that Sunday

Pastor Dave will be traveling to Iowa twice in support of his son, David, once in April for Senior Day and Baseball Homecoming, causing him to be away Sunday, April 15. Pastor Judy will be preaching and leading worship, and while she is more than willing and able to cover both services, it would be nice for

her and for the congregation to gather together that Sunday as well.

April has five Sundays, so April 29 was already scheduled to be a Reunion Sunday, when we always gather for one service followed by a special congregational fellowship event.

Seeing a pattern here? It continues in May. Pastor Dave will return to Iowa for David's graduation from Briar Cliff University the weekend of May 11, 12 and 13, the last date being a Sunday. Once again Pastor Judy stands ready to preach and lead worship. And the last Sunday of the month, May 27, is the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, when we traditionally go to our summer schedule.

Rather than have a confusing calendar in April and May, with two services, then one, then one again, then two, then one, and so forth, after much discussion we have decided to go to a single 10 am service on Sunday, April 8 – the Sunday after Easter. Who knows – maybe going to our Summer Worship Schedule early this year will help chase off the late spring clouds and encourage summer's sunshine to break through sooner!

We'll publish lots of reminders and be looking forward to our extended worship time together this year. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Dave. Sunny wishes to you!

# Stewardship: Weaving Worship and Witness Together

*Sing to the LORD, bless his name! Tell of his salvation day by day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.*  
-- Psalm 96:2-3

At the end of nearly every worship service at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, we remind one another of our calling through our Mission Statement. A worship leader says, "By God's grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ we are called to:" and together we respond, "Worship God. Grow in faith. Share the Gospel. Serve others. Welcome all."

In Psalm 96 the writer connects two of our faithful actions together – worshipping God and sharing the good news of what God has done. In worship we sing and



bless God's name in song, liturgy, and prayer. We are then sent to tell of his salvation day by day, declaring his glory out in the "real world" among our neighbors. Here in the Crossroads and Lake Hills neighborhoods of Bellevue, that means literally among the nations and all the people, for we live in an amazingly diverse community!

When we think about Stewardship, we probably first and foremost think about financially supporting our church and our shared ministries. And Stewardship is in part about this. We need support – financial support as well as prayer support, the support of volunteers, support of lay leaders, and a supportive and enthusiastic church community – to do what God calls us to do.

But Stewardship is also about Worshipping and Sharing. On one level, these activities are supported by your offerings. Our worship staff, the upkeep of our worship facility, the purchase of banners and music and paper upon which we print bulletins,

turning on lights and furnaces – all these require financial support.

But on a deeper level, our giving is both an act of Worship and one way we make a statement about our faith. God is so generous to us.

Responding to God's gifts with grateful and generous hearts means we are eager to give ourselves – to give time, talent, and treasure as a "thank you" to God. Our giving is also a statement of faith. Giving generously tells God that we trust God to continue to provide for us.

When a church struggles financially, one statement that makes is that its supporters may not value the ministries and mission of the church enough to give generously and sacrificially. Not in all cases, but in many that I've seen, churches have far more potential to not just survive but to thrive than they experience, limited in part by inadequate financial support.

During this year's Stewardship Focus – April 22 and 29 – we'll explore Psalm 96 more deeply, and realize how connected Worship, Outreach, and Stewardship truly are. In the meanwhile, thank you for your generosity and faithful Stewardship in the past, and may God call us to be even more grateful, joyful, and generous in sharing all the gifts God has entrusted to us.



## From Pastor Judy Brennan

I have a friend from high school named Ben. We lost touch a bit during college, but reconnected again during the year that I served in the Lutheran Volunteer Corps. The Lutheran church that I worked at was only a couple blocks away from the Jesuit House where he lived with other novices in preparation for the priesthood – so my community and his got to know each other and had some good times in the process. While Ben and I shared a mutual interest in “God and faith stuff, we also had a mutual appreciation for the strengths of our different traditions. I’ve had many good experience with Jesuits over the years and even took a number of courses from them while I was in seminary.

One time when I was visiting Ben, I asked him about one of his brothers from the novitiate. He pulled out a current Jesuit Directory to look up his location and ministry site, role, etc. As I was flipping through the directory, I noticed that there were lots of priests listed as “Praying for the World”. I commented how great it was that the Jesuits were dedicating so many of their priests to holding the world in prayer. He told me that “Praying for the World” was the default “ministry” for priests who were old or sick, basically it was a euphemism for priests that were now living in the care of others.

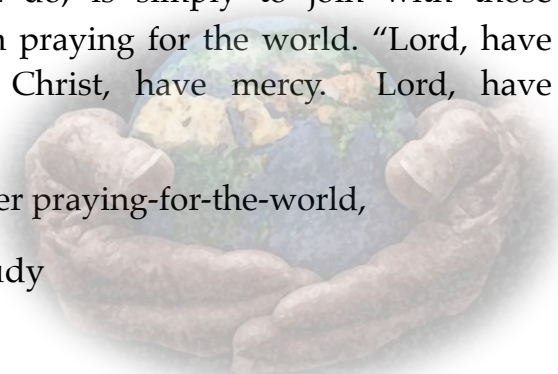
I’ve thought about that a lot over the years. I’ve thought about those priests that dedicated their whole lives in ministry and service to God and others. I’ve thought about how the church is now caring for them, but also how even to the very end of their lives, they are still serving by “praying for the world.”

It’s such a simple thing, but I think it’s still important for each of us – to pray for the world. On days when there’s been another school shooting, when we hear about refugees who’ve fled for their lives and cannot return to their country, when we read about the latest topic of political gridlock, when another natural disaster strikes, when a family member is struggling with cancer, when a friend is grieving the loss of their spouse, I’m comforted to know that there are others out there “praying for the world” because I know that the world sure does need prayers.

We need God’s Spirit of comfort, wisdom, and courage to face the world. In the midst of things that we encounter each day, we have a God-given responsibility to do something to try to make it better. But one of the things we can ALL do, is simply to join with those priests in praying for the world. “Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.”

Your sister praying-for-the-world,

Pastor Judy







## HAVE A HEART FOR THE GOOD SAMARITAN FUND UPDATE

As of Sunday, March 25, \$6,780 has been donated during the “Have a Heart” drive to benefit The Good Samaritan Fund. Our bookkeeper Denise Fuentes, in sharing this report, added this very appropriate comment -

“WAY TO GO CHURCH!!!”

### Lector Sign Up

Are you interested in reading one of the lessons during church? It's a great way to get involved with only a small time commitment: simply walk up front, read the scripture, and walk back to your seat. Sign up on line or at the Information Desk and we'll send you the reading a few days before your scheduled slot. If you've never done it before, then check with an usher before worship on the day you're scheduled to have all your questions answered.

Summer Worship  
Begins April 8  
**One Service at 10 AM**



## Special Adult Faith Formation

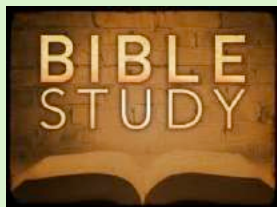
### Events in March and April

These two months there are several special events happening at the Adult Faith Formation time on Sundays. March 4 Joshua Nelson, grandson of Cross of Christ member Wanda Nelson, will share about his mission work experience in Zambia, Africa. Joshua will tell of times of joy and hope, and also challenges he has faced, including a very serious vehicle accident! On March 11, Adult Faith Formation will give way to a Special Congregational Meeting called by the Church Council for the sole purpose of forming a Call Committee to call a part-time (15 hours a

week) Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries. Council is recommending Pastor Judy Brennan for this call – Pastor Judy currently is under contract but not call. On April 4 a representative of Congregations for the Homeless will share about their work helping men move from homelessness to permanent housing and self-sufficiency as we once again prepare to host the men and staff of CFH in May. Finally, on April 29, Adult Faith Formation will move aside for our Reunion Sunday Fellowship Event – be looking for more details soon!

## WELCA Bible Study Leaders in March and April

Those leading Circle Bible studies are invited to gather with Pastor Dave as he helps you prepare on the first Thursday of the month. For March, we will meet on March 1, and next month's meeting is April 5. We meet from 10 to 11:15 in the Conference Room. Bring your



Bibles, the current month's copy of Gather magazine, and what you need for your favorite method of note-taking.

Leaders are strongly

encouraged to attend, but all WELCA members are welcome!



The deadline for the Next  
CrossCurrents is

April 15.

Our next edition covers May-August.

Please email or hand deliver your  
articles to the office before this date.

Thank you

# APRIL 14

## WOMENS SPRING LUNCHEON

with Pastor Judy Brennan



## Bloom Where You are Planted

The Women's Spring Luncheon is Saturday, April 14, at 11:30 am. The theme this year is *Bloom Where You Are Planted*. Our Speaker will be Pastor Judy Brennan. A sign up sheet will be available at the Information Desk beginning March 11. All Donations will go to the Lutheran World Relief Shipping Fund. Please join us, all women are welcome.

# CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS MAY 2018

Once again, Cross of Christ will be hosting Congregations for the Homeless in May. Meals are provided with help, from our Covenant Churches. Cross of Christ will be responsible for meals during the first half of the month. Our biggest need for the month is for meal providers, sandwich makers, and visitors. Look for more information in the weekly announcements.

Contact Nadine Bentsen 747-1543 or [nadinebentsen@yahoo.com](mailto:nadinebentsen@yahoo.com) Ann Huseby 922-6319 or [ahuseby@comcast.net](mailto:ahuseby@comcast.net) to volunteer or with questions.



Congregations  
for the  
Homeless

## Grief Groups Gatherings



Cross of Christ's Grief Group is a gathering open to all members, friends of the congregation, and

their guest. Once a month we come together for fellowship, conversation, mutual support and companionship on our journeys from grieving to hope. Pastor Dave leads a thematic discussion. March's theme is "Signs of Spring" and in April our theme will be "Resurrection Stories." All are welcome.

*To my Church Family, Pastor, and Staff,  
A Long overdue to thank you all for a wonderful service for  
Tom Fine.*

*The past year was very hard on him with the declining  
health, which took him from us last November.*

*He loved his Church and people. There were many  
compliments given to me, what a warm service was given to  
him.*

*Also, thank you for all the help and prayers for my  
recovery. This is a wonderful Church Family.*

*My Family thanks you all for being there for us.*

*God bless you all*

*Sincerely, Heidi Fine*



"Spring forward and fall back" is an easy way to remember how to set the clock when Daylight Saving Times begins and ends. You set your clock forward one hour at 2 a.m. on March 11. You'll set it back one hour at 2 a.m. on November 4.



# YOUTH

Young Children and Families are Invited to the

## “PRAY-GROUND”

This special space in the Sanctuary is designed for our youngest worshippers and their families. Children age 8 and under are welcome to color, play games, enjoy age-appropriate books, and just have their own space in the back of the transept – the southeast corner of the Sanctuary. We **LOVE** having children in worship! We hope this special place helps make them and their families feel both welcome and comfortable.



## UNDIE SUNDAY

The Sunday School kids would like to thank you all for your support of Undie Sunday! Thanks to your support and a generous donation from Thrivent, we were able to send 535 pairs of socks, underwear, and related items to Congregations for the Homeless, New Bethlehem Day Center, and Sophia Way. Your generosity will help ease some of the burden of homelessness to children, women, and men on the Eastside.



172 pairs of warm socks

334 pairs of underwear

Many warm feet  
Many warm hearts

THANK YOU CROSS OF CHRIST  
FAMILY AND THRIVENT  
FINANCIAL FOR YOUR  
GENEROSITY!

**LIVE**   
**GENEROUSLY**



# THE ARK



After a cold, wet winter and a tough flu season, we are all looking forward to spring.

Also when we look back, we have a lot to be thankful for. Let's start with the Basket fundraiser in December.

We sold over 60 baskets and were

blessed with \$2600. This went to our scholarship fund and to equipment and curriculum for our school.

Our children visited the seniors at Sunrise Senior Center and shared lots of songs, laughs and kind words with the residents. The teachers from the Lions and Horses class had a little Christmas program put together and won the hearts of everyone there.

Our creative children in the Lions and Horses class have been making little cards for Pastor Judy to take to her home visits.

We are happy to report that our classes are full or will be full within the next month. That is really exciting! We see lots of siblings coming to the Ark. In the Fall we will welcome two new babies to our Roo's class whose siblings are *already* here in other classes!

Our Duckling's teacher, Ms. Michele, is moving to Olympia to be close to her daughter and grandchildren. We will miss her. That means as of the end of February we need a Duckling teacher for our 12 to 18 month young munchkins. We are also looking for substitute teachers. If you know anyone who would be interested, please have them call or send a resume: Ark phone: (425) 644-5414, email:

[arkchildcare@qwestoffice.net](mailto:arkchildcare@qwestoffice.net) , and website: [www.Thearkatcofc.org](http://www.Thearkatcofc.org) .

Thank you everyone for welcoming Solange as our new Director. Yes, Jan and Heidi are semi- retired and are at the Ark for limited hours. Guess they are still having too much fun to totally retire.

We love connecting the church and Ark communities. Feel free to visit us or take a tour. We hold a monthly tour on the second Wednesday of every month at 10am. We have a few volunteer opportunities for anyone interested as well....Give us a call...



*Happy 25th  
Anniversary  
at the Ark,  
Ms. Jan!*

Ark Director Jan Galbraith was the founding director of the Ark Early Learning Center 25 years ago. She is completing her amazing quarter century of service in a few months when she will begin her well-earned retirement. We honored Jan in worship February 25, and continue to pray blessings be upon her as she serves Ark Co-Director with her successor, Solange Silva, who will take over as solo Director later this summer.



# Third Saturday Hikers

Third Saturday Hikers are a friendly group of people who enjoy one another's company in the outdoors. We get together on the third Saturday of the month to explore another corner of God's creation. This year we have some great plans. In April we go south of Olympia and explore the mysterious Mima Mounds. Other trips this year will include a hike to Barclay Lake off Highway 2, a visit to Mt Rainier and Paradise, a hike along Hurricane Ridge, a trek down the old railroad grade off Stevens Pass, and a visit to Washington Park in Anacortes. All are welcome to come on one or all these hikes. For more information, ask Erik Paulson



## NAMI

NAMI Eastside Youth Mental Health Conference is Saturday, March 10, 8:30am-2:30pm (check-in, 8am) at Sammamish Presbyterian Church. Lunch provided (optional) for \$10. NAMI Eastside's goal for our Youth Mental Health Conference is to educate families, mental health providers and educators on mental illness in our youth. Conference attendees become better informed on the early warning signs and symptoms of mental illness in youth, and are made aware of available resources to help manage and treat mental illness in young people. Clock Hours are available. Please RSVP [www.nami-eastside.org/yc.html](http://www.nami-eastside.org/yc.html) Contact Dick Hanner for more information.

# Bellevue Youth Choirs



## Once Upon a Time

Saturday, March 17th, 3pm \* St. Thomas Episcopal \*  
featuring: Premier, Concert, Training Choirs



**Special group discount for you!**

now offering 15 tickets for \$10 each  
email: [madeleine@bellevueyouthchoirs.org](mailto:madeleine@bellevueyouthchoirs.org)

*It is such a joy to grow our relationship with Cross of Christ- we so enjoyed performing for your Wednesday Advent Services in December. We would love to offer your congregation at Cross of Christ a group ticket rate for our upcoming performance, Once Upon a Time at St. Thomas Episcopal, Medina. As always- we include sing-alongs with the audience- such a joy to build community through song! See above flyer for more details.*

*Best! Darcy Morrissey  
Managing Artistic Director*



# FINANCIALS

## Financial Report Month and YTD Ended December 2017

	Month			Year - to - Date		
	Actual	Budget	Fav (Unfav)	Actual	Budget	Fav (Unfav)
<b>Revenue</b>						
December 2017 General Fund Receipts	\$ 51,835	\$ 39,713	\$ 12,122	\$ 273,457	\$ 296,804	\$ (23,347)
December 2017 Other Income	\$ 5,413	\$ 6,490	\$ (1,077)	\$ 38,672	\$ 27,923	\$ 10,749
<b>December 2017 Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 57,248</b>	<b>\$ 46,203</b>	<b>\$ 11,045</b>	<b>\$ 312,129</b>	<b>\$ 324,727</b>	<b>\$ (12,598)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
December 2017	40,297	41,388	1,091	317,510	334,000	16,490
<b>Net/Year to Date Net</b>	<b>\$ 16,951</b>			<b>\$ (5,381)</b>		

## Financial Report Month and YTD Ended November 2017

	Month			Year - to - Date		
	Actual	Budget	Fav (Unfav)	Actual	Budget	Fav (Unfav)
<b>Revenue</b>						
November 2017 General Fund Receipts	\$ 35,109	\$ 36,813	\$ (1,704)	\$ 221,621	\$ 257,089	\$ (35,468)
November 2017 Other Income	\$ 5,623	\$ 3,744	\$ 1,879	\$ 33,261	\$ 21,433	\$ 11,828
<b>November 2017 Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 40,732</b>	<b>\$ 40,557</b>	<b>\$ 175</b>	<b>\$ 254,882</b>	<b>\$ 278,522</b>	<b>\$ (23,640)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
November 2017	42,733	41,388	(1,345)	277,214	290,613	13,399
<b>Net/Year to Date Net</b>	<b>\$ (2,001)</b>			<b>\$ (22,332)</b>		

## THRIVANT CHOICE DOLLARS

Since 2010, over \$370 million has been distributed to thousands of churches, schools, and other nonprofits just like yours through Thrivent Choice. Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent donates millions of charitable outreach dollars each year. Cross of Chris received \$3,862 in charitable outreach funding in 2017 benefiting Congregations for the Homeless, Youth Programs, Tanzania Mission Support, and the Building Fund. As a reminder, 2017 Choice Dollars expire on March 31.

# Endowment Board

## THE “ENDOWMENT FUND” at Cross of Christ

The Endowment Fund may be a bit of a mystery to some, for we don't talk about it very much. Perhaps you've wondered how it provides financial support to the Church. Let's pull back the curtain on the Endowment Fund, frame its purpose, give a little of its history, and explain how it financially supports the mission of the Church.

The Endowment Fund was formed to provide a structured way for Church members to give a proportionate share of their accumulated resources for ongoing enhancement and expansion of the Church. Gifts from such sources are separate and apart from our stewardship of tithing from regular income.

Gifts to the Endowment Fund are invested and earnings become a source of continued benefit and outreach. The stated purpose of the Fund is to *“Enhance the work of the Church with emphasis on educational support of youth, life enrichment for all ages, mission and community outreach of the congregation and expansion of current or future facilities.”*

The Cross of Christ Endowment Fund was established in late 1994 and the first meeting of the Endowment Fund Board was in March 1995. Members of the first Board were the same people that had served as an AD Hoc

Committee in the drafting and finalizing of the “Resolution of Establishment.”

Of the original cast of Board members, all have left or passed, except one, Jay Marsh. Jay with his long career in the Financial Services industry has been invaluable over the years to the Board and has helped many individuals and church member families with investment guidance, Resource giving arrangements and end of life gift planning. He currently serves as Investment Advisor to the current Board.

Endowment Fund Gifts are of many types and sources; cash, securities, wills, insurance, annuities, estates, memorials, bequests, bonuses, IRA-(required minimum distributions), etc. As such, some are straight forward while others can be more complex and can have tax implications. Board members are available to help you with questions.

This is the beginning of the Endowment Fund story. In future issues of CrossCurrents we'll talk about “the rest of the story”: How the Fund is managed? “How Gifts are invested”? and “How the Fund helps in the work of the Church.”

Hal Mills, Endowment Board Member



**Cross of Christ  
Lutheran Church**



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Monday-Thursday

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425-746-9345

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Council email

[council3@cofclc.net](mailto:council3@cofclc.net)

Website

[crossofchristbellevue.org](http://crossofchristbellevue.org)

For Pastoral Emergencies  
outside of office hours please  
contact Pastor Dave at  
602-481-6709

Lead Pastor  
Dave Thomas 425-746-7300 ext.106  
[pastordave@cofclc.net](mailto:pastordave@cofclc.net)

Coordinator of Caring Ministries Pastor Judy  
Brennan [pastorjudybrennan@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjudybrennan@gmail.com)  
502-415-5883

Director of Music Ministries Ben Fowler  
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Sexton  
Jamie Monk 425-746-7300

The Ark Childcare Co-Directors  
Jan Galbraith  
Solange Silva  
[arkchildcare@qwestoffice.com](mailto:arkchildcare@qwestoffice.com)

**EASTER FLOWERS**



Flowers to brighten our church  
for Easter Sunday! If  
you would like to  
donate, pick up a  
dedication form in the  
narthex , and write checks  
to Cross of Christ with Easter

Flowers on the memo line.

The office will be closed Monday, April 2  
the day after Easter  
and Monday, May 29 for  
Memorial Day.

Main Office Hours:  
Mon–Thurs 9:30am–2pm  
425.746.7300  
[Office@COFCLC.NET](mailto:Office@COFCLC.NET)

*Bulletin deadline:  
Wednesdays at noon*



411  
156th Avenue NE  
Bellevue  
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98007

Cross of Christ  
Lutheran Church



Change Service Requested

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