



CrossCurrents

Pastor's Perspective

You've heard the weather expression "wintry mix"? According to weather.com, wintry mix is variable precipitation consisting of rain, freezing rain, sleet, and/or snow. In layman's terms, it's the yuckiest kind of winter weather – cold, slushy, nasty, stuff.

Wintry mix also describes how I feel sometimes about the season we're heading into. There's a lot I look forward to this time of year. Many special services and seasons like All Saints' Day, Thanksgiving Eve, Christ the King Sunday, Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany are among my favorite worship experiences of the whole year. But they take place when the natural season of winter brings more clouds, rain, and darkness, especially here in the Pacific Northwest. It's a fun and festive time, both pastorally and personally for me. But it's also one of my busiest seasons, with seemingly too many to-do's than I can get done. Wintry mix!

Are you looking forward to winter? Do you enter it with excitement and anticipation, or with melancholy or even dread? Like me, do you have mixed feelings as we turn the calendar to November, December, and then to the New Year?

It doesn't even have to be winter outside for us to experience a wintry mix emotionally, or spiritually. Life can be filled with both dark and light, joy and sadness, hope and fears – sometimes

falling upon us all at once. Life can be a mix, and we can feel all mixed up, any time of the year.

It was into the darkness of the world, and the darkness that enters into each of our lives from time to time, that Jesus came to humanity as a human, as the Christ Child. He came to be one of us. He came to be with us. And he came to show us and to tell us that God is for us, not against us. Even and especially when we experience wintry mix.

Immanuel. God with us. The promise of Advent and Christmas, revealed throughout Epiphany, is that the Light of the World not only doesn't shy away from our darkness, he enters into it with the brightness and beauty of grace lived out in the One who doesn't condemn but comforts, the One who doesn't shame but saves and sets us free.

I'll be honest. While I can appreciate the magical beauty of freshly fallen snow, and I occasionally do dream of a white Christmas, as far as the actual winter weather is concerned, I'm perfectly happy to live on the mild side in the months ahead. I can do without any wintry mix at all. But come what may, my prayer for myself and for you is that we are aware of the Light that is with us always - winter, spring, summer and fall.

Now, I better go find my snow shovel, ice scraper, and boots. Just in case!

Blessed to serve with you. Pastor Dave Thomas

The Blessings of Fog

When we moved to the Bellevue/Seattle area five and a half years ago, people joked all the time about getting ready for the rain. Sure enough, as summer turned into fall, the temperatures started to drop and the clouds slowly drifted in – and down. Of course there were some beautifully crisp, clear fall days, but as fall moved into winter there was less sun and more days of overcast, drizzle, sprinkles, intermittent showers, and even downpours. If the natives of Alaska have 100 words for snow, then I'm sure the natives of the PNW had 100 words for rain.



When you live in a place with so many varieties of clouds and rain, I suppose you get to be sort of an aficionado. And it's not that I don't like the sun. But I have grown to appreciate the different kinds of cloudy/rainy days. So, I have to say, my favorite kind of cloudy weather is fog.

I've lived in many places with fog, but I remember very fondly some of my first foggy experiences out here. The clouds blurring and softening the edges of great Douglas Firs and Western Red Cedars, the mysterious quiet that settled over our neighborhood, and the way everyone seemed to move slower and more carefully. It seems like fog causes us to pay more attention to our immediate surroundings and appreciate the beauty of what was near and close. In the fog, there are no long-range vistas and mountain grandeur. They may still be there, but they're hidden for now and so our focus changes. One can choose to embrace one's limitations in the fog or be frustrated by them. And so, it seems there's a kind of spiritual discipline in the fog – a challenge to adapt and be patient, to slow our pace, and to use our other, less dominate senses.

I know that as fall changes into winter, we will be moving into a time of clouds, shade, and darkness. This can be a hard time for some of us. We often look for ways to celebrate the lights that illumine these darker times, and that is good. But I would also remind and encourage us to find ways to notice the gradations and even the beauty of gray. If our eyes can't see far, then let them rest on things that are near and dear. If we are forced to slow down, then let us notice the small, quiet things that are often ignored. The fog can be a gift to us, a challenge perhaps, but also an opportunity. To close, I found some others who also found inspiration in the fog, and I thought I'd share them with you.... Pastor Judy

Fog Haiku

*Enveloped in fog
Mind wipes and thus ignites
With bright inner light*

In nature everything has a job. The job of the fog is to beautify the existing beauties. – Mehmet Murat ildan
Inside the fog, you think better and thus you see better. – Mehmet Murat ildan

Music Ministries



Organ Project Update

The organ upgrade, refurbishment, and extension project is well underway and is nearly completed. We are just waiting on a few reed pipes that will be ready for installation around the end of November.

We had a wonderful afternoon concert on Reformation Sunday, featuring Nick Abbott. Nick was instrumental in guiding this project and we were blessed to have him return and show us the fruits of this endeavor.



It's not too late to join our choir for the upcoming season!

During each Sunday in Advent, we will preview a piece from our Christmas Eve cantata, *What Sweeter Music*. All of this music is recorded so you can listen to someone sing your specific part to learn it. So even if you don't read music (or it's been a while) you can easily learn these pieces by practicing with the recording.

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!

Upcoming Festival Worship Services

All Saints Day, November 4

Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service

Christ the King Sunday, November 25

Advent

What sweeter music can we bring than a joyous carol for to sing the birth of this, our heavenly King? Awake the voice, awake the string!

—Robert Herrick, 17th c.

What Sweeter Music – A Festival of Carols is a sumptuous feast of fifteen English, German, and French carols plus several new songs from the pen of one of this generation's master composers, Mark Hayes. The joyous *Opening Medley* sets the stage for the many exceptional moments to come, from the powerful new setting of the *Magnificat* for soprano solo to the charming *Cradle Medley*. Accompanied by chamber orchestra, congregation and choir will celebrate the birth of our Savior in this uplifting Christmas Eve celebration, 9pm.

Christmas Eve



Interfaith Covenant Winter Events

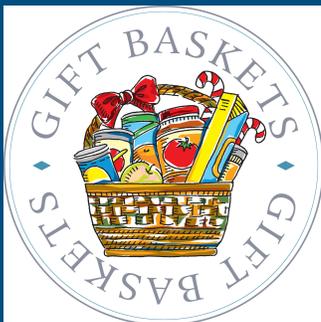
The Interfaith Covenant Committee and member churches host two events this winter. The first is the annual Thanksgiving Eve Interfaith Gathering on Wednesday, November 21, at 7:30 pm at St. Louise de Marillac Catholic Church, 141 156th Ave. SE. Cantor David Serkin-Poole, who has served at Temple B’Nai Torah since 1980, will bring this year’s message. As always the service will feature a combined choir and for the third consecutive year, Cross of Christ’s own Carillon Handbell Choir.



On Wednesday, January 30, at 7 pm, Cross of Christ will once again host the Interfaith Education Forum. Plans are still in process, and details will be shared when available. The Interfaith Covenant Committee hopes to present a speaker on the topic of racism, its impact on our Lake Hills and Crossroads neighborhoods, and possible responses by communities of faith.

Please plan to join other Cross of Christ folks and members of the Interfaith Covenant congregations – St. Louise Catholic Church, Temple B’Nai Torah, and Episcopal Church of the Resurrection -at these meaningful events.

Ark Basket Sales Sunday, December 9 and Sunday, December 16



All Saints’ Day Service November 4

Red candles on the altar remind us of members of Cross of Christ who have been welcomed into their heavenly home since last All Saints Sunday. Along with white candles we’ll light for other saints and loved ones in our lives, their glow calls to mind the promises of Jesus, the Light of the World, to prepare a place in his Father’s house for all who believe in him. On All Saints’ Sunday November 4, we will worship with remembrance and thanksgiving at two powerful services: Traditional at 9 am and our casual Mosaic service at 11 am.

Marty Budzius
LaVonne Ekren
Tom Fine
Leona Lenschow
Mary Mehlum
Vernette Rae
Corrine Riemer

Calling all Carolers!

Spread some Christmas cheer this December by singing carols to some of our homebound members with Pastor Judy. Stay tuned for signups of where and when toward the end of November. Fa la la la la!



THE SCOUTS WILL BE TAKING ORDERS FOR HOLIDAY GREENS ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 28 AND SUNDAY NOVEMBER 4.

Contact Laurie Beck, 425-417-8359.

Thank you Cross of Christ for your continued support of Pack 673.

Yum! It's Almost Time for Advent Smorgasbord!

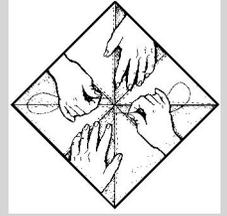
A favorite Cross of Christ fellowship event, the annual Advent Smorgasbord will be held on Sunday, December 2, the first Sunday in Advent, at 11:30 am, in the Fellowship Hall. To accommodate the Smorgasbord, there will be one combined worship service that day at 10 am. Meatballs, lefse, and other Scandinavian goodies await your RSVP – see the signup sheet in the

Narthex the weeks prior for more information and to join the fun, food, and fellowship.



QUILTS

An impressive number of quilts were dedicated on Quilt Sunday. Thanks to so many people for donations of money and material, people who tie the quilts, sew the tops, and edge them, those who shop for batting and sheets for the backs, those who pack them up and deliver them to Seattle. There are many people who are involved and the Cross of Christ Quilters appreciate you – you know who you are. It cost about \$60 to ship these quilts and the group is seeking donations. Now, here's the tally:



Lutheran World Relief - 41

Sophia Way Women's Shelter - 13

Eastside Baby Corner - 11

Congregations for the Homeless Men's Shelter - 6

Total – 71

Cross of Christ Quilters meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month in the Fellowship Hall from 10 am to 2 pm. You can come for one hour or all four.

Bring a lunch – we would love you to join us.

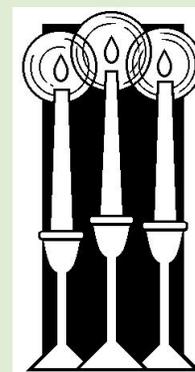
Questions call Sandra Volkman at 425 894 8531





for kids of all ages, including special treats for young ones. A traditional Lutheran Christmas Eve service at **7 pm** with liturgy, carols, a special Christmas Eve sermon, and featuring Carillon Handbell Choir. A music-filled **9 pm** service led by Cantorei Choir featuring special guest musicians. All Christmas Eve services will include Holy Communion and the singing of "Silent Night" to candlelight.

Sunday, December 30 – Fifth Sunday Combined Reunion Service 10 am. This final worship opportunity of 2018 will help us close out 2018 and prepare us to enter the New Year in faith. As has become our tradition, we'll literally ring in the New Year with an all-congregation impromptu handbell and percussion orchestra! Come join the joy and fun of this last service of the year!



Make your plans now to be with us at all these very special services, and invite your family, friends and neighbors. You, and they, will be glad you did!

Advent is just around the corner, and Christmas is on the way! Plans are already underway for the Christmas worship season. Please note the following special services:

Sunday, December 23 – Fourth Sunday in Advent, 2 services, Traditional 9 am and Mosaic at 11 am

Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve – 3 services. A family-friendly, casual service at **5 pm** with favorite Christmas Carols and a message





*Wanda Magee - She is a fabulous Egg Decorator!
Recovering well from her knee replacement surgery*



Lorelei Altendener

Thanks to the Cast and Crew of the Stewardship Play



A very special thanks to the outstanding cast and crew of this year's Stewardship Play, "So You Think You Can't Dance" presented in worship on Sunday, September 30. You gave the congregation a gift with this fun, funny, entertaining and through-provoking production. What great actors – and dancers – we are blessed with at Cross of Christ. And what good sports and good stewards of your time and talent you are. If you missed the play, or would like to enjoy it again, you will find a link to a YouTube video of it on our webpage at CrossofChristBellevue.org.

New Adult Faith Formation Series on Acts Begins November 4

Acts of the Apostles (or as it is also sometimes called, Acts of the Holy Spirit) is the exciting, action-packed record of the beginning of the Christian Church. The second volume of Luke's two-part history which begins with the Gospel that carries his name, Acts begins with the Ascension of Jesus and follows the disciples and

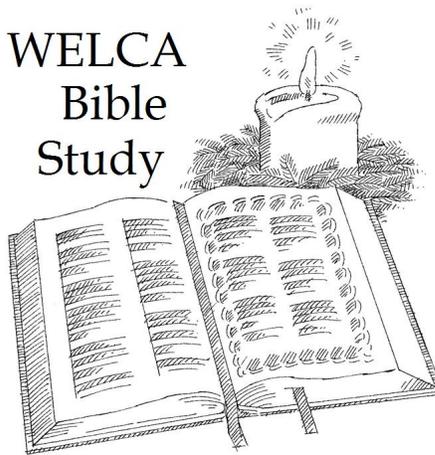
others who, led by the Spirit, share the good news with their world.

Pastor Dave leads the study of this fascinating, high-energy book between worship services on Sunday, from 10:15 to 10:55 am, in the Library. You're encouraged to bring your Bibles to this series, as we'll make our way through Acts over the next several months. Do note that when there is one combined worship service, Adult Faith Formation takes a break. Upcoming Sundays when that will occur are December 2 and 30.

WELCA Bible Study Leaders' Upcoming Meetings

To help Circle leaders prepare for their monthly Bible Studies, Pastor Dave gathers with the study facilitators each month on the first Thursday, from 10 to 11:15 am, in the Conference Room. Bring your Bibles, that month's copy of "Gather" magazine, and the supplies you need to take notes. You don't even have to be the assigned leader to come to the study – all women are welcome.

WELCA Bible Study



Grief Group Winter Gatherings

All are invited to Grief Group, an informal, comfortable, confidential monthly gathering led by Pastor Dave, who brings a devotion and a conversation starter to each gathering. Grief Group meets the third Wednesday of each month from 10 to 11 am in the Gathering Room. Upcoming gatherings are November 14, December 19, and January 16.

From the Garden of Remembrance Committee

Your Garden of Remembrance and Columbarium are ready to serve. We have sold six niches in the new walls added last year, and three or four niches are still currently available on upper rows of the original wall. The niches are \$2,500. This includes perpetual care, urn, engraving of the front face plate, and care should something change with the property at Cross of Christ. The costs at Quiring, our engraver, have increased over the past two years and the committee is discussing a gradual price increase, a decision will be before the end of this year to be effective early next year. Also, we are looking at special features that may be included or added to a present columbarium niche such as face plates to hold a small vase or memorial.



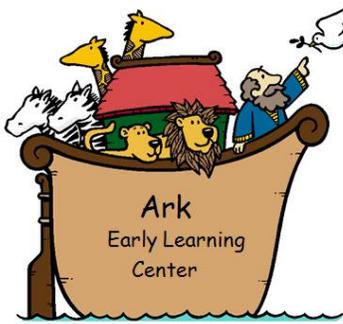
The Remembrance Wall also has space and is ready to serve with your special message remembering family, friends, someone special, or a special event. The costs for adding messages to this wall are \$500 for the smaller size and \$750 for the larger space. You can also purchase several spaces together.

Contact Sandy Volkman, Fred Corwin, Gorman Colling, or Lee Thompson for ideas, consultation, and suggestions. We want to keep this Cross of Christ feature ready to serve. Thank you to those who have helped maintain our Garden of Remembrance.



The Ark

From Ms. Solange



Welcome to another school year at the Ark! We look forward to another busy year here. We have a new assistant director, Janet DePooter. She will be working Mondays,

Wednesdays and Friday afternoons. Ms. Heidi will continue working Tuesdays, Thursdays and Friday mornings. When Ms. Heidi retires at the end of December, Ms. Janet will be working here full time.



For Jan Galbraith's retirement the staff collected the children handprints and art work, and the Quilters put together this great banner for her.

The staff had a great time on our annual retreat. We were blessed with a good weather at Ocean Shores and with the opportunity to get to know each other closely; some of us enjoyed walking on the beach, others taking self-care and caring for each other (hair color, massages, facials and so on).



We want to thank all parents for your participation on the Open House, we hope you had a good time and it was informative for all. In November, we will be collecting items for our annual basket fundraiser. Each year, we put baskets together to sell and the funds are used to support our scholarship program. We will be sending out more information as the project gets nearer.

A note from Ms. Heidi:

Yes, I guess this will be my last Ark Newsletter to you!

After almost 11 years (I will be 4 days short) at the Ark, I will say goodbye at the end of December. I will miss the Ark with all of your beautiful children, all the hugs I got from them, the Staff and the parents. The Ark is like an extended family to me. Thank you for all your kindness.

My husband and I will be busy fixing our house up, packing, and selling the house to get ready for a move halfway across the country next year. Texas here we come!! I will be visiting some of our past Ark families there.

*I am so thankful to the Lord that he sent Ms. Janet about two years ago to the Ark. He had His plan for her and the Ark. I also want to say Thank you to Ms. Solange. It has been a pleasure working with you. I love ALL of you! Well, I best stop writing. It is only now that I realize it is only a few more months and I will be retiring. God's blessing to everyone!
Ms. Heidi*

Coming up at the Ark!!



Oct 18: Lions and Horses Field Trip

Oct 31: Halloween Party

Nov 12: Basket Fundraiser Launch

Nov 21: Thanksgiving Kids Lunch

Nov 22 and 24: ARK CLOSED

Nov 28: Basket Wrapping

Dec 9 (Sunday): Basket Fundraiser

Dec 13: Christmas Celebration
(kids caroling and tree decoration)

Dec 16 (Sunday): Basket Fundraiser

Dec 24: Ark Closes @ 3:00

Dec 25 to Jan 2 The Ark will be closed

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The “Endowment Fund” at Cross of Christ

This is the third in a series of articles about your Endowment Fund. The purpose of the articles is to give every member a broader understanding of the Fund and how it fits into and supports the mission of the Church. Today, we discuss “Fund Investment.”

Funds are conservatively invested toward the goal of maintaining principle and generating earnings. It is the earnings from the invested principle that becomes the ongoing stream of support for the church. The amount and value of the income stream is dependent on the dollars of principle invested, the instruments in which the principle is invested, and trends of the financial markets.

Over the years the Fund has managed to grow, thanks to the gifting from members and careful investment decisions. At the end of year 2017, the asset value of the Fund totaled \$634,511. 2017 was an outstanding growth period for financial markets and your Fund participated in this growth. End of year 2017 value reflected a growth of more than 10% over end of year 2016. It would be wonderful if such growth would continue, but that’s not being realistic. Financial Markets bounce up and down and the reason that Financial Analysts always end their buy, sell or hold recommendations, with the words “**past performances is no guaranty of future results.**”

Investing decisions are made by the Board at its scheduled meetings. The Funds Balance Sheet and Income & Expense statements, as prepared and maintained by our Financial Secretary Doug Rodgers, are reviewed. After discussion and review we make our decisions to sell, hold, or buy selected investments. Jay Marsh, Financial Advisor, contributes in these decisions.

The Fund’s investments reflect a mix of Bonds, broad market EFT’s, CD’s, and money markets.

Decisions regarding request’s for distribution of funds are also considered at this time.

In the next article we’ll talk about the Fund’s “distributions of earnings” and how it supports the Cross of Christ. That article will be published in the spring issue of CrossCurrents. By then you will have evaluated any impact the new Federal Income Tax Law may have on your end-of-year gifting decisions. As you close out the year, a charitable gift to the Endowment Fund from your accumulated resources may hold a financial benefit for you and certainly be of great benefit to your church.

Hal Mills

The HopeLink Giving Tree

Again this year, as we have done for many years, we will have a Giving Tree in the Narthex with gift tags for disadvantaged girls and boys. By taking a tag and bringing back a new, unwrapped gift to place under the tree, you are helping to make Christmas special for a child in our community. The Giving Tree will be in the Narthex beginning Sunday, November 25, and gifts can be donated until Sunday, December 9. Your generosity has brightened Christmas for countless girls and boys over the years. Thank you in advance for considering this important ministry.



F I N A N C I A L S

Financial Report Month and YTD Ended August 2018

| | Month | | | Year - to - Date | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | Actual | Budget | Fav (Unfav) | Actual | Budget | Fav (Unfav) |
| Revenue | | | | | | |
| August 2018 General Fund Receipts | \$ 30,858 | \$ 34,000 | \$ (3,142) | \$ 146,118 | \$ 130,000 | \$ 16,118 |
| August 2018 Other Income | \$ 3,849 | \$ 3,800 | \$ 49 | \$ 17,569 | \$ 18,350 | \$ (781) |
| August 2018 Total Income | \$ 34,707 | \$ 37,800 | \$ (3,093) | \$ 163,687 | \$ 148,350 | \$ 15,337 |
| Expenses | | | | | | |
| August 2018 | 37,671 | 38,452 | 781 | 162,704 | 158,127 | (4,577) |
| Net/Year to Date Net | \$ (2,964) | | | \$ 983 | | |

Financial Report Month and YTD Ended September 2018

| | Month | | | Year - to - Date | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | Actual | Budget | Fav (Unfav) | Actual | Budget | Fav (Unfav) |
| Revenue | | | | | | |
| September 2018 General Fund Receipts | \$ 36,006 | \$ 34,000 | \$ 2,006 | \$ 182,125 | \$ 164,000 | \$ 18,125 |
| September 2018 Other Income | \$ 4,580 | \$ 3,800 | \$ 780 | \$ 22,149 | \$ 22,150 | \$ (1) |
| September 2018 Total Income | \$ 40,586 | \$ 37,800 | \$ 2,786 | \$ 204,274 | \$ 186,150 | \$ 18,124 |
| Expenses | | | | | | |
| September 2018 | 40,519 | 38,525 | (1,994) | 203,224 | 196,652 | (6,572) |
| Net/Year to Date Net | \$ 67 | | | \$ 1,050 | | |

| | | | |
|--|----------------|--|----------------------|
| Lead Pastor | Dave Thomas | pastordave@cofcl.net | 425-746-7300 ext.106 |
| Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries | Judy Brennan | pastorjudybrennan@gmail.com | 502-415-5883 |
| Director of Music Ministries | Ben Fowler | ben@cofcl.net | 425-746-7300 |
| Media | Kristie Walker | kristie@cofcl.net | |
| Office Administrator | Judy Giseburt | office@cofcl.net | 425-746-7300 |
| Bookkeeper | Denise Fuentes | bookkeeper@cofcl.net | 425-746-7300 ext.108 |
| The Ark Childcare Director | Solange Silva | arkchildcare@qwestoffice.com | 425-644-5414 |

The Next CrossCurrents will be published on February 1. Please have your articles to the office by January 15. The spring edition covers events in February, March, and April.

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Monday-Thursday

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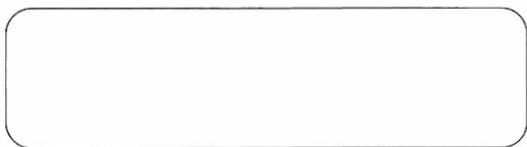
For Pastoral Emergencies outside of office hours please contact Pastor Dave at 602-481-6709

Thanksgiving Eve Interfaith Gathering

Wednesday
November 21

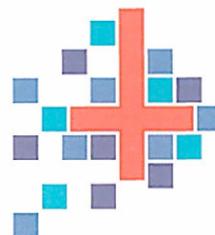
7:30 pm

Saint Louise de Marillac Catholic Church



411
156th Avenue NE
Bellevue
Washington
98007

Cross of Christ
Lutheran Church



Change Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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Bellevue, WA 98004