



Silverdale Lutheran Church

Annual Report

2023



11701 Ridgepoint Dr NW
SILVERDALE, WA. 98383

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Silverdale Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes (Zoom)

Nov. 20, 2022

ATTENDANCE – 111 confirmed members in attendance- 21 via Zoom and 90 in person, fulfilling the quorum.

CALL TO ORDER- 12:34pm - Bradley Posadas, Council President

OPENING PRAYER - Pastor Bill

SONG – Christ Be Our Light

OPENING REMARKS & INSTRUCTIONS

First hybrid Annual Meeting experience for SLC, via Zoom and in person. A Zoom recording is being taken to aid our Secretary with the minutes.

For those online, we have people watching for your indications of questions and to count your votes. On your screen, click the view button on the upper right corner and select speaker view option to see who is speaking. Use the chat function to ask questions. When we vote, both in person and online, please raise your hand, keep it up until prompted to lower, so we can count your vote. We will share our screen with viewers online; you will see the same slides displayed in person. Those online will be automatically muted as the meeting proceeds. If you wish to speak, please unmute yourself when called upon. (Click the unmute button on the lower left corner of your screen.)

In person, if you would like to speak, please go to the one microphone in the front of the hall to be recognized. If unable to get to the microphone, raise your hand and we will get one to you. When speaking, please first state your name. Seconds can be made without going to the microphone. All other motions must be made by being recognized by the chair, using the microphone. All motions will need a second. There will be time for debate, questions, and amendments. After the discussion I will then call for a vote. Please note the often-used quote “I call the question,” is not an order. At that time an individual may go to the microphone and say, “I move to end the debate.” If the motion receives a second, we will move to direct the vote to end the discussion period. If it passes, all discussion is ended, and we will move to a vote.

Five Motions to be presented:

1. to accept the minutes
2. to approve the recommended 2023 benevolences
3. to approve the 2023 budget
4. the elections
5. to adjourn

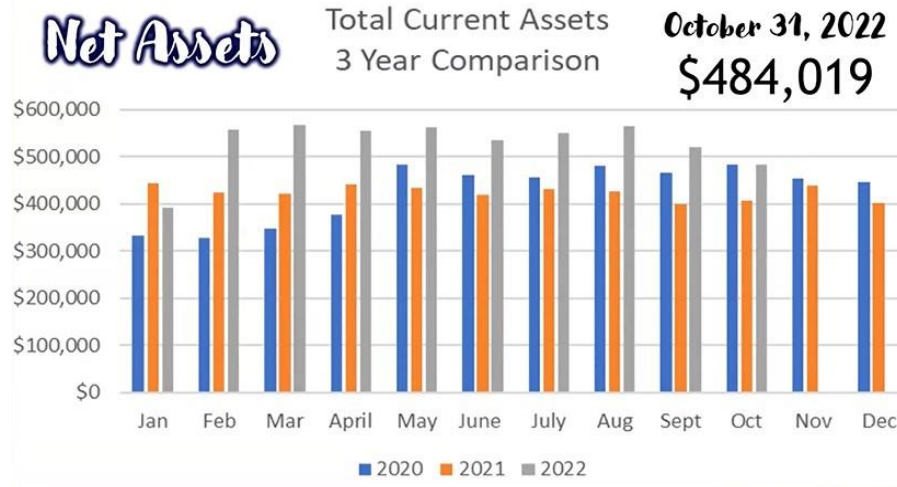
Voting - We will vote by raising our hands. A manual count will only happen if we see that the count is close, or if an individual moves to have a “division of house”. Bradley will ask for a show of hands of those in favor, then opposed, and finally for those who abstain. Bradley as Chair will rule as to whether the motion passes or not. There will be assistants helping to count hands.

MINUTES

The 2021 congregational meeting minutes are printed in the annual report for members to review.

Motion: Teresa Walton moved that we approve the minutes as they are printed in the Annual Report; Jerry seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken. The motion passed.

TREASURER REPORT – Rick Cotter, bookkeeper (filling in for Treasurer Karen McQuillan)

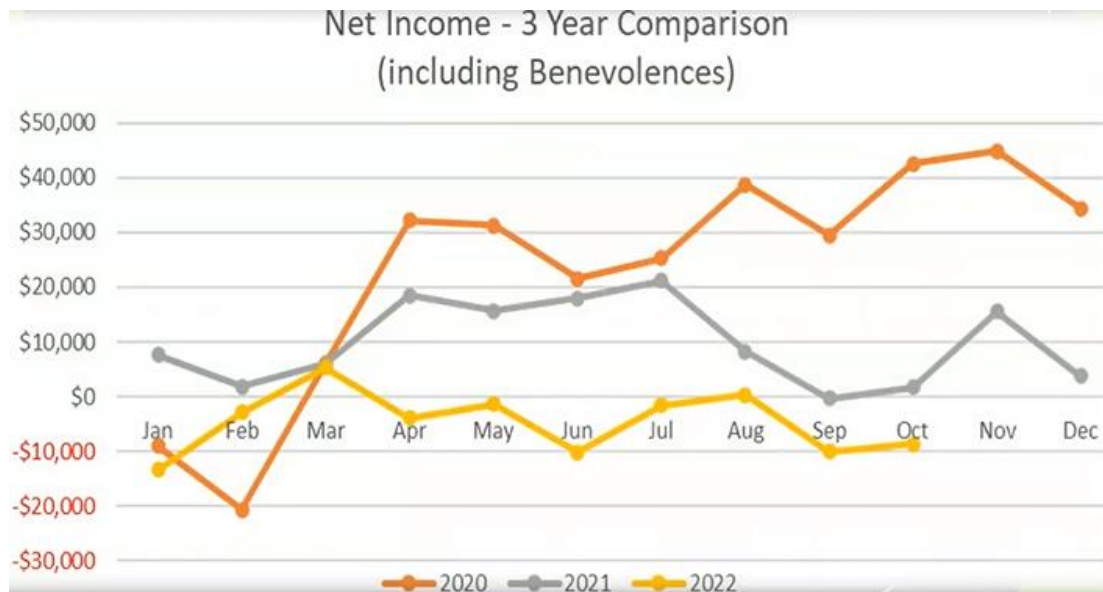


- \$484,019 net assets. Three major categories: \$195,000 in estate funds, \$90,000 in unrestricted net assets (money carried over from year to year), and \$60,000 in our building fund. The remainder of net assets lie in smaller categories such as: youth account, memorials, and outreach accounts.

October 3 year comparison (including benevolences)			
	2020	2021	2022
Income	\$731,310	\$689,114	\$688,939
Expense	\$688,812	\$687,421	\$697,507
Difference	\$42,498	\$1,693	-\$8,568

Above is a 3-year breakdown of offerings and expenses through October. (Additional information through September is included in the annual report.)

- The only debt carried by SLC is our mortgage on the building, which currently has a balance of \$91,000. We are on a 5-year adjustable-rate mortgage, currently at 5.25%. This mortgage will be paid off within 2-3 years. The assessed value of our campus is \$6,800,000.
- Offerings are down slightly for 2022 and expenses are up about \$10,000. At year end, if there is a negative balance, it can come out of unrestricted net assets.



Graph above, of the same data, showing we are currently in the red by about \$8500.



This is a snapshot of benevolences paid to date; a detailed report of amounts given to each ministry through September is included in the annual report.

- \$56,929 is slightly more than given through offerings, because some of the ministries we give benevolences to were also targeted for additional giving.
- \$30,985 of Targeted Giving: Ukraine relief effort, and community outreach are two of the largest receivers of these funds.

PASTORS' VIDEO REPORT – Pastor Bill Crabtree, Pastor Jonathan Sansgaard

- Video was made available prior to the meeting and played at the meeting.

BENEVOLENCES - Rick Cotter

We have 2 types of offering giving: restricted and unrestricted. (Restricted offering requires a form submitted to Bruce.)

- 7.5% of Unrestricted Income/Offerings go to SW Washington Synod, ELCA
- 1.5% of Unrestricted Income/Offerings go to Local Benevolences
- 9% of Restricted Income/Offerings go to Local Benevolences

2023 BENEVOLENCE/OUTREACH PROPOSAL

Council Outreach	5%
Birkenfeld Stella Maris House	10%
Empowering Life Womens Prison Ministry	5%
Living Stones	20%
Lutheran Community Services	20%
Martha and Mary	20%
Back Packs 4 Kids	10%
Kids Town International (Orphanage)	5%
PLU	5%

Council Outreach – Each year the Council decides where to designate the Council Outreach fund, depending upon current needs of the community.

Motion: Katie Shaw moved that we adopt the benevolences as listed for 2023, Ron Manbeck seconded.

Discussion:

Barbara Smithson: Why is the CK Food bank benevolence discontinued? **Rick-** CK food bank has been one of the benevolences in the past. It was decided at the annual meeting in the past year or two to remove CK Food bank. That does not keep people from giving to CK Food Bank as Targeted giving. **Katie Shaw** – In addition, we give to CK Food Bank in other ways, not necessarily monetarily, but through donations of food, and taking donations, etc. That is why it was removed from the benevolence list.

Bradley- Is there any more discussion? There was not.

VOTE: A vote was taken. The motion carried, with one abstained vote.

PROPOSED 2023 BUDGET – Rick

Bradley - The full budget and informational meeting were made available to the congregation for review, discussion, and questions prior to this meeting. Therefore, we will not be going over the budget line by line at this meeting. Rick will give an overview of the 2023 proposed budget. After which Rick will make a motion to adopt the proposed budget. If it is seconded, we will then have time for further comments, discussion and amendments.

SLC 2023 Budget	
(A 6.2% increase from 2022)	
Administration	\$38,040
Facilities	\$154,813
Programs	\$49,820
Salaries	\$702,689
Benevolences	\$86,028
TOTAL	\$1,031,390

There are five main areas of ministry, (see chart previous page) that make up the budget.

- Administration, very slight changes: Employee Assistance Program was moved to Admin, from salaries as it didn't belong there.
- Facilities: main increase was adding \$4,000 for snow removal. All utilities are increasing, some significantly.
- Programs: very little change.
- Salaries: An 8.66% pay raise across the board; as a COLA. A couple of decreases – Bookkeeper was adjusted down to closer to what is needed. Office Manager, Bruce, had been on a salary, but due to his retirement situation, he needs to lower his hours. Basically the Office Manager hours decreased from 40 hours on salary to 25 hours weekly between Bruce and Kathleen.
- Benevolences: Strictly based upon offerings. We do not budget to pay exactly \$86,028. Yet, if we receive the full offering amounts, then we pay the full \$86,028.

Motion: Rick moved that we accept the budget as proposed; Wayne Ferber seconded.

Discussion: Clarification was requested on the mortgage balance and assessed value. \$91,000 is the remaining balance on the mortgage. The SLC campus is assessed at \$6,800,000.

VOTE: A vote was taken. The motion carried, unanimously.

Bradley – Thank you and the Council for working hard to prepare for this, in these challenging times. Especially Rick Cotter for countless hours and stepping up to help our Treasurer. We are stepping out in faith regarding what God is calling us to do, while being realistic. We believe that we can do this and look to our Lord to help us achieve this goal.

Randy Randolph, nomination committee member, will present the nominations. When Randy is done, Bradley will ask for any more nominations from the floor; three times to be sure there is not a willing volunteer. A motion is not needed to close nominations if no additions from the floor. Bradley will ask for a motion to approve the nominations in slate. Contested positions will be voted on individually.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – Randy Randolph

Members of the Nomination Committee: Pastor Bill, Chair; Randy Randolph, Val Stueven, Anna Quam.

A written Ballot was presented to the congregation. (Summarized below)

For Executive Officers: (serve one year, up to three years)

- **Bradley Posadas – President** – second term, eligible for one more
- **Scott Slocum – Vice President** - first term, eligible for two more
- **Karen McQuillan – Treasurer** – second term, eligible for one more
- **Jane Rasely – Secretary** – first term, eligible for two more.

Council Members: (two year term)

- **Jo Schaefer – Worship & Music** – second term, last one for which he is eligible
- **Karen McNamara** – first term, eligible for one more
- **Scott Grasmick – Stewardship** – second term, last one for which he is eligible.
- **Bob Arper – Property & Grounds** – first term, last year he completed a prior member's term and therefore he is now eligible for one more after this one

- **Jacque Story – Youth** – Jacque is filling the last year of a current Council member's term, she would be eligible for 2 more terms after this year.
- **Katie Shaw – Social Concerns**

Nominating Committee: (one year term)

- **Patti Randall**
- **Tom Hawks**
- **Val Stueven**

Lutherhaven Board & Alternate: (two year term)

- **Chris Love**

Martha & Mary Delegates: (one year term)

- **Don Lachata**
- **Ethel Mae Nelson**
- **Marilyn Hawks**

Endowment Committee:

- **Wade Randall**
- **Tom Hawks**

Bradley: Asked three times, for nominations from the floor. There were none. Nominations were closed.

Motion: Randy Randolph moved to accept the nominations in slate; seconded by Bob Arper. No discussion.

VOTE: Voted to accept the nominations in slate. Motion carried.

VOTE: Voted to elect the nominations. Motion carried.

Thank you to all who are stepping up to serve; may you be blessed. Thank you to two of our executive officers who are going off Council. Julie Enebo who served for two years; and to Denyse Hemmersbach who served three years on Trustees and Council. Thank you both for your work and support. Also thank you to two of our Council members who are also completing their service; Carmen Meherg with Education and Kurt Thompson with Youth. Thank you for jobs well done.

Congregation, we are finally back! (Bradley) It has been challenging years after covid, it took its toll the last two years. As I complete my first year, I have been so blessed to work with the pastors, staff, council, trustees and congregational members. We are moving on as a congregation. We are seeing pews fill up and online participation growing.

The following are accomplishment highlights of the year:

- Kitchen Renovation – a new stove and countertops
- Birkenfeld Stella Maris Shelter- a small group visited the shelter; thank you quilters for donating 17 quilts as a gift
- Service and Ordination of Marietta Nelson-Bittle at SLC
- Ride for Refugees, raised \$16K
- SLC trip to Greece and Rome with Pastor Bill, 17 participants
- Sanctuary AV desk made and installed by Chris Love, and lighting
- 14 new Confirmands
- Welcomed 24 new SLC members
- Awarded \$150,000 FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant Program (one of 26 recipients; only recipient in Kitsap County) See 10 projects to be completed with grant monies below.



SILVERDALE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Grace Filled. Spirit Led.

Ten (10) Physical Security Projects with SLC Security Team Lead include:

- 1) Translucent armoring of window panes & doors (David Soine)
- 2) Fencing (Ray Schaeffer)
- 3) Enhanced alarm system (David Soine)
- 4) Public address system (Bruce Kramer)
- 5) Wireless camera upgrades (Eric Bockellie)
- 6) Key control and accessibility (Bruce Kramer)
- 7) Contracted security for special holidays (Shelley Ferber)
- 8) Security training for key personnel (Wayne Ferber)
- 9) Vehicular impediments/bollards (Kevin McNamara)
- 10) Reengineering front doors (David Soine)



CLOSING REMARKS - Pastor Bill

Thank you Bradley. He has taken this job as a real call and honor, which has touched my heart. I've always believed God has raised up the right President at the right time. Thank you Bradley for your service. Just as David Soine did such a great job in the previous three years before this. Thank you also Priscilla and Sue for the food. We also want to thank our spouses Karen and Sandy and our entire families for their support. I also want to say when I looked at the budget this year it was an Oh Wow! But I know we can do it. God will see us through. We are still 150 less per Sunday in attendance, but let's keep going!

CLOSING PRAYER- Pastor Jonathan

Motion: Chris Love moved that we adjourn the meeting; Ruthie Ackenhussen seconded. Vote by show of hands. Motion carried.

ADJOURN 1:48pm

Respectfully Submitted by Julie Enebo

ANNUAL REPORT

Rev. Bill Crabtree, Lead Pastor

Half Full or Half Empty?

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

As we arrive at the end of 2023, there is so much to celebrate but there are also places of real concern. Often in my life I vacillate between a “half-full” and “half-empty” viewpoint and of course perspective is everything! On the one hand we can and should be optimistic about our future but on the other, we need to be realistic and honest regarding the challenges before us. My report this year will use both perspectives: “half- full” and “half-empty.” However, my overarching perspective is simply one of gratitude for SLC. Both PJ and I know how blessed we are to serve at SLC, and I know I can say that for our entire staff. I am now in my 17th year here at SLC and someone this year informed me I’m the longest serving pastor in SLC’s history. Wow! A long-term pastorate like PJ and I are having here at SLC can be very good for a congregation **IF** we don’t get too comfortable and complacent – us with you and you with us! Therefore, as the Apostle Paul says in Philippians 3:14, “Let us press on for the upward call of Christ Jesus our Lord!”

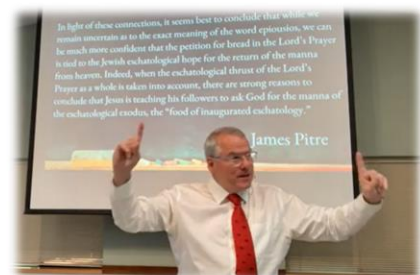


Worship and Education



Are we there yet?” All parents who have taken their kids on a road trip or hike, have heard this question. I’ve found myself asking this same question each year since 2019 when it comes to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although COVID continues to flare up and change, I think it is safe to say the current variants are less of a threat in causing serious illness than prior ones. My assumption is that COVID is with us to stay just like the flu is. Regardless, it seems COVID’s effect on our congregation is far from being over. On the “1/2 full” side, we are back up and fully functioning as a congregation in worship, Christian education, Sunday School,

Adult classes and small groups, service events, music ministry, fellowship events, and the like. For example, on some special Sundays we have reached 350 people in worship between the two services. My Thursday morning study is back up to around 25-30 each week in-person and the Sunday morning class is once again filling the Fellowship Hall. Sunday School is happening with a solid core of kids (Check out PJ’s and Jessica’s reports). Our music ministry is going strong (please check out Justin’s report). On the half empty side, our in-person worship attendance is still 50-100 people less per Sunday than pre-COVID and this is true for even the well-attended Sundays like Rally Day and Confirmation where we used to always exceed 400 a Sunday. We are wrestling with how to encourage and reconnect with the approximately 75 households who appear to be disengaged from SLC after COVID, or at least from in-person worship.



Livestreaming and Hybrid classes and Meetings



On the ½ full side, almost weekly I hear from people who say the livestreaming of our worship services is a life saver for them: People with illness or in the hospital, people with compromised immune systems, older adults who physically can't get to church, people who live far away from our campus, families away on sporting events or vacations, and families who, for a variety of reasons, are not able to make it in-person.

What a joy! We have invested a lot in this ministry and still do with an amazingly dedicated and capable tech team. Between all our platforms (Facebook, YouTube, our App & Website) we usually have over 100 views per week. It is possible we are reaching more people with the Word and Gospel than we were before COVID when you put both in-person and online attendance together. We continue to fine tune the quality of the sound on the livestream as we are finding many people “check us out” online before they come in-person. Moreover, doing all my Bible studies and classes Hybrid (in-person and online at the same time) has enabled people to connect and learn who otherwise wouldn't have been able to. However, on the half-empty side, we of course don't know the level of involvement behind the online views. Moreover, I have to ask if our livestream is enabling people to stay at home who otherwise could, and dare I say, should, be in worship to receive Holy Communion and connect to their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ? The level of engagement with being in the sanctuary is far greater than watching on a screen from home. I don't know the answer but I know we will continue the livestream as the blessings far outweigh the deficits.

Stewardship of Talents, Time, and Treasure

We can celebrate that at the time of the printing of this report, we are almost even in meeting our ministry expenses which, because of the significant increases in salaries, utilities, and expenses due to inflation in 2023, means our giving is probably 5-10% greater than last year. Indeed, our current deficit of approximately \$3400 is less than it was last year. Yet on the half empty side, we are not coming close to our actual budget (Council and staff are being as frugal as possible) and we have more increases coming in 2024 to simply maintain our current level of ministry. This is also an area where we get an idea of how many unengaged households we have, as about 92 households make no financial contribution at all. When it comes to time and talents, again, there is so much to celebrate. Hearty meals is going strong and there are so many folks serving on Sundays or being part of the quilters or stepping up to make a meal for those in need. I haven't even scratched the surface in celebrating all the ways people at SLC are using their abilities and time to bless SLC's ministry or in serving and loving Kitsap. Please check out our Community Connector, Cathy Bohman's report! Yet, on the half empty side, we struggle mightily with getting SLC members to serve as Sunday as greeters or to join the tech team and advance the slides. Did you know that we only have a handful of folks volunteering to help with worship tech who often have to go to both services each Sunday because no one answers our many requests for help? Our Evangelism chair on Council has the same struggle with greeters. Hearty Meals needs more lead cooks. Our choir could use more singers. Our campus could use more servants to help Lisa our Facility manager as well. This is just to name a few areas. We put these opportunities out in the Beacon, emails, and eNews but there is usually very little response.



Our Staff

It is here that my “half full – half empty” take doesn’t really work because when it comes to our Staff, for me, the glass is just about completely full. Each person is doing amazing things to bless our congregation! I could highlight each one if I had time and room but I’ll just say I absolutely consider it a privilege and joy to lead and work with this amazing group of people. We have an amazing team as you’ll see as you read their reports.

Getting Back to our Mission



For about 2 ½ years at least, our Staff and Council have put all our energy in working around and through the challenges of COVID. Now it is time to get back to what we were focusing on before 2020: Connecting more to Christ and loving Kitsap and the world. I had raised the question after my last sabbatical: Does SLC want to break through our

current plateau and reach more people than we are doing now with the Gospel? Our Lutheran theology is so needed as most people have either the non-sacramental “Evangelical” expressions on one hand or the Roman Catholic expression on the other to choose from when it comes to Christianity. Our County and our community needs a strong Lutheran Christian presence. On the half full side, we received 33 new members this year but on the half empty we really need to double this number to keep up with our losses to death and people moving away. I believe strongly we have to keep growing and pushing ourselves if we want to avoid the rapid decline of some many ELCA congregations and mainline churches.

Wider-Church (ELCA) Situation



I will address this subject at length at our Annual Meeting, but my goal currently is to make sure SLC, and its members are fully informed on the nature of our relationship with the ELCA and what the ELCA is planning at its upcoming 2025 Churchwide Assembly (CWA). I briefly mentioned this last year in my report but it is vital that we all know that the ELCA voted to form a “Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church” that will either propose significant changes to the ELCA

Constitution including the Model Constitution for Congregations or will move at the 2025 Assembly to call a “Re-Constituting Convention” in 2026 where they would adopt an entirely new constitution. This Commission is now formed and has begun its work. I’ll explain more about this at our Annual Meeting but the important thing for us to understand is that whatever changes the CWA makes to the mandatory parts of the Model Constitution are enforce for SLC ***regardless of whether we “ratify” them or officially incorporate them into our Constitution.*** We don’t know at this point what changes will be made in 2025 but we all need to be aware that there ***may*** be changes that will significantly affect SLC. There may not but I feel conscience bound to make sure SLC understands the authority of our national organization in the structure of the ELCA.

Yes, there are many who have grown disconnected to the ELCA because the ELCA at the national and synodical level is very active politically active championing a, for lack of better words, liberal or progressive agenda. However, my reason for bringing this up at this point is separate from the struggle many have with our churchwide organization and Bishop. My reason is that I don’t want SLC to be surprised regarding possible future actions of the ELCA and that we understand the interdependency with our national organization is very different than before

the ELCA when we were an American Lutheran Church congregation. In the ALC, congregations were more autonomous and had much more freedom when it comes to how they operate. Why haven't I raised this before? It is the actions of our last Churchwide Assembly signaling major changes that causes me to bring this before you. I simply want you to be informed.

Thanks

AS always, I end my report with thanks to my family for there support. Sandy is amazing in her patience and the listening ear that she has for me with the challenges of being a pastor. She loves SLC as much as I do! Thanks to our staff and Council leadership. You are being served well by them. I should also mention that I am overdue for my next sabbatical but still praying and formulating about how that sabbatical will meet the needs of SLC at this time.

Finally, the truth is that our "glass" is not half full or empty. Our vessel as individuals and our community, is full and running over with the Baptismal promise of God's love and forgiveness in Christ. I pray those promises will overflow from us more and more to our community and world.

In Christ,
Pastor Bill



Annual Report

Pastor Jonathan Sansgaard

I am so delighted to have celebrated 15 years of ministry with you at SLC, and 20 years of ordination as well in 2023. But the real milestones of this year have been the extraordinary moments of ministry we have shared as we have indeed connected more deeply to Christ and more broadly to our community.

ELEMENTARY

Preschool - Jessica Voigt, Pastor Bill, and I continue to rotate on weekday chapel. Jessica is also getting a Mom's Group started, and has been very active in connecting the preschool with the congregation.

Sunday School - Our new path forward with a split elementary group from 1st-5th grade. They are continuing to learn together, rotating between an art, drama, or music enrichment, and a more traditional class setting. So far this year we are close to being able to split that group between grade groups as well. The key here is that those who attend continue to be pretty consistent week to week and the kids are engaged.

VBS - A full and excellent offering to our congregation and community with great volunteers, and probably the most amazing ending we have ever had. We pulled a baptism theme into Water Day on the last day that left us teary and moved. Well put together once again by Jessica, with great musical help from Pastor Bill and Justin Cormier.



Bible Class - Our largest class ever by far met in September, with about 16 young people receiving bibles. This is a one day gathering for about an hour and a half, but we also follow up with suggestions for nightly bible verses, and a Faith 5 practice of family devotion that we have found to work very well. Because of some new families and others that missed out in the past, we had from 2nd grade to sophomore in high school receiving bibles, thanks in large part to an anonymous donor.

First Communion - I met with three young people from our congregation for classes this Spring. They got a chance to make the bread and received their First Communion on a Sunday during the Easter season.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

middle wednesdays - Our gatherings continue to be a source of fun and connection for our group, with an emphasis on connection. The group has grown this fall as we had an influx of 5th graders come in this year. Jessica Voigt leads the large group and we have moved one of our young adults in there to help with small groups as well. We are adding more service and off

campus fun events this year, and then taking our theme words and extending them out often for two months. This fall we have been studying the Wisdom literature in the Bible, with an emphasis on Proverbs. Many of those who come on Wednesday are still outside of the congregational membership, so we have found a good way to continue outreach in our community.

middle sundays - After combining middle and high school last year, we decided to split them again, and so far that is going well, with critical mass for both groups and a talented teacher/leaders in Jacque Story to take the lead with the middle. They are following the lectionary themes of Sunday through the CONNECT curriculum from 1517 Media.

middle camp - We had a record setting year with 42 youth participating, but it was also our best year by far from almost every standpoint. We had a rock solid group of faithful counselors, extended programming thanks to Jessica Voigt and I working closely together, and a depth with many of our youth we haven't reached before. I would say the intense connection of camp is a truly critical shalom (wholeness) ministry for the Church, especially among our young people. This was a big part of what I am calling the *Slam Dunk Summer*.



All Church Camp - This one involves grade school and middle school, but I continued to be a chaplain for this week long camp at, and sponsored by, Lutherhaven. They extended their week this year, so I was at camp a little less, but got to do all but one (thanks Jessica) of the daily devotions and nightly campfires.

HIGH SCHOOL

SLY Sundays - Our high schoolers are back on their own again this year, and attendance has been pretty good so far. We focus each week on the Sunday scriptures and invite our young people to dig deeper into making connections between God's story and their stories.

SLY Wednesdays - Wednesdays continue much as they have since starting up in person last year, but we too are doing more service events and off campus social events as well. Again, the ministry of connection continues to be vital to the whole child/young adult. Very thankful for Katy Crabtree, Joel Corlew and Alex Lund continuing to lead, with Joel taking on more with the middle.

Summer Servant Trip - Our three year wait for Costa Rica finally ended this summer as we took 14 youth and 4 adults to work with Rice and Beans Ministry (RABMIN) in the foothills of this tropical country. Our instinct on this ministry was spot on as they gave a tremendous balance of meaningful work and faith formation. We came back very excited to return again in our three year cycle, so this may become our go-to international stop. Again, this was another

part of the *Slam Dunk Summer*. Now our focus turns to 2024, and a trip somewhere in the United States. We will be choosing that destination as we get into November. The ELCA National Youth Gathering will also be taking place this summer, and there may be a chance for those interested to attend that as well.



Confirmation - Our year went very well with our 7 Confirmation students, who by the time you read this will have affirmed their faith at the October 29th Reformation worship. Pastor Bill and Jessica started our intensive year back in January as I was on sabbatical, and we have met every month but July since. I am really looking forward to how these mature young adults continue to grow and serve and mature as adult members of our congregation. Thanks to Sandra Evanoff for cooking our Mentor Lunch, to the Bohman family for hosting our retreat, and to all our mentors who have been connecting with our youth throughout the year. Next year we have decided to extend Confirmation to an 18 month process to allow for some other pieces to be added.

Backpacking - We were completely full for our 12 person backpack trip in August to Royal Basin, and it was a phenomenal weekend. Another one of the *Slam Dunk Summer* events, and a bit of a reunion trip for our Costa Rica group. The focus was just on being with one another in one of the most spectacular settings in Olympic National Park. Mission accomplished!



YOUNG ADULTS

This group has had a fair amount of transition in the last year, with two marriages, and one couple and individual moving out of the area. We gathered at times for a meal and some bible study, for

social events like trivia nights and Christmas parties, and a couple service events. We kicked off the fall with a few of us feeding at Benedict House, and we have plans for dinner together in October. We may be looking at adding a Young Couple's group in the future.

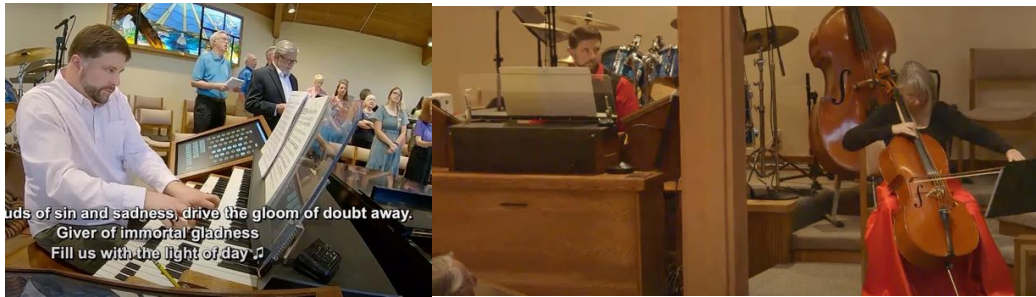


SABBATICAL

I am so appreciative of our congregations commitment to offering sabbatical time for your pastors. This year was only my second in 20 years, but both have been at SLC, and both have come at just the right time. I was able to get some learning in with a couple books and a conference in Anaheim, but a lot of my sabbatical centered around spiritual direction and family and community connection for me. As selfish as that might sounds, I am convinced that time has helped me vastly in preaching more authentically, being more focused and present with people in caregiving, and being faithful to the command of sabbath rest and renewal. I hope you can see the benefits as well as I can. My thanks to Pastor Bill and Jessica Voigt especially for covering so much while I was away.

Music Director Justin Cormier

2022/23 was overflowing with glimmers of great joy! The music program is growing and thriving. Participation is up. New and faithful faces are being featured. We showcased what we have done well for generations and started some big new things!



Our new organ from MetaOrganworks is almost finished and already bringing a clarity of sound that had to be heard to be explained. The more elaborate console will be ready in the coming months, and we will have another chance to have Dan here to fine tune the instrument after a few months of experimentation. One of the greatest advantages of the Virtual Pipe organ is the mailableity. We can adjust the parameters of each pipe without having to rebuild it as you would with a physical pipe. This advantage is also a pandora's box of infinite possibility, so it will take some considerable time to get it just right.



Our new concert series is off to a great start. The potluck was delicious and well attended. Big thanks to Debbie Marsh who coordinated the first potluck and to Debbie White for the second. Pam Roberts gave a moving performance, and my chops got a great workout. She told me I have big ears, and since my face is in proportion, I take it as a compliment.



The Alleluia Ringers are ringing strong. On Good Friday, Easter, and Rally Sunday, we had bells lead the congregational song, and it worked! In the past, I've tried at several other churches to lead congregational singing with only handbells to significant failure. I believe that

leading the congregational song is a critical duty of all the church's musical groups and I'm proud of the Alleluia Ringers' success.



Be Still and Know debuted in 2023 for our midweek Lent service. I wrote this service because we only have evening services in Lent and we had never had a chance to use the richness of the Compline text. “Be Still and Know” combines Vespers and Compline into an evening service for tailored for the Lent. I think Marty made his mark with Holden Evening Prayer and we will still use it even though it has Advent imagery. Perhaps Advent evening services are in the future.



New life was found in all sorts of places. Our Barbershop group performed many times, including at CKPres with Glen as lead during our combined concert in June. The youth brought new energy to worship, especially the Sunday that highlighted the Costa Rica trip. Let's not forget our amazing Christmas Musical “Bethlehem to Broadway” written by Natalie Story. 2 packed house shows!



The weekly rehearsal groups made great strides this year. EwB accompanied Maundy Thursday and 11 am Easter. They made some new arrangements of classical hymns including “For All The Saints” and “Lord Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word.” Pickers just had too much fun, nuff said. Our'chestra played some great music including Saint-Seans “The Swan” and Weber's “Pie Jesu” and moved into a once per month playing schedule. I'm very grateful and happy with the time these folks give to this ministry and how they are growing.



	Visibility	Restrictions	Date	Views ↓	Col
 On Our Way Rejoicing Silverdale Lutheran Zoom Choir	Public	None	Oct 1, 2020 Published	1,193	
 We Give Thee But Thine Own	Public	None	Oct 19, 2020 Published	989	
 Earth And All Stars Silverdale Lutheran Zoom Choir Public Domain	Public	None	Oct 1, 2020 Published	902	

All God's children have a voice in the choir and that is why it resides high in my priorities and performs 2 Sundays per month. This year we sang many new works by Dan Forrest and we will join with the Bremerton Symphony Chorale for "Messiah" here in December. We joined in fellowship and worship faithfully and sang our hearts out. We ended the 2022 season with a combined concert with CKPres, which we will now continue to do annually. 2024 will be May 17th at SLC. Remember those zoom choir hymn videos we made during the pandemic? They continue to enrich the lives of folks far and wide. Some have over a thousand views now, On Our Way Rejoicing has 1193 views, and We Give Thee But Thine Own has 989 views.

Pastoral Care Assistant Kim Holmes Grasmick

2023 was a better year for me personally, with my health improving. I am still carrying oxygen, but for the most part I am able to do what I want to do, although maybe not at the pace I'd like. As always, I thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Pastoral Care and Eucharistic Ministry:



In addition to the retirement communities, I join in with the pastors in serving regularly in the hospital and rehab rooms and in the homes of those who are unable to come to church.

I am excited to say that Silverdale Lutheran Church now has eucharistic services at 4 independent and assisted living communities: Clearbrook, Fieldstone, Crista Shores and The Courtyard at Crista Shores. These were started to serve residents from our congregation, but residents from varied Protestant backgrounds have joined in so that we have 4 small worshipping communities. We even have a short Bible Study at Fieldstone. This has been a great personal joy to me and has been a blessing for those who want a liturgical Communion experience but can't get out to their own churches. Because the Communion elements come from SLC's altar, we are sure to tell them that they are truly participating with each of you in the Body of Christ.



One of the people I visit gifted me this cross to use at our table.

We have a small but devoted group of eucharistic ministers who take Holy Communion out to the homebound. I would like to thank each one of them for their consistency and dedication in ensuring that our homebound continue to feel connected to their church family. It is a goal of mine to build up this ministry in 2024. Please prayerfully consider joining in this ministry. It will bless you as much as those you visit.

Women's Ministry:



Ladies' Night Out is the 2nd Tuesday of each month, where all women over age 18 get together for a variety of activities. Each month is different, with manis/pedis, art, music, a comedy show, Lutherhaven, restaurants and just hanging out over a good shared potluck at church to name a few.

Fall Retreat:

In November of 2021 (reporting here because it hadn't happened by the time of the annual report) we had our one-day Fall Retreat at Seabeck Conference Center and learned the practice of Lectio Divina, which is a traditional monastic practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's word. Not a Bible study, the practitioner enters into the Living Word through four separate steps: read; meditate; pray; contemplate.

Spring Retreat at St. Andrew's House:

"This Much I Know is True" was a weekend of reflection on how our faith is formed, using the Apostle's Creed as a backbone. I'm excited to announce that we'll be back at St. Andrew's House in February 2024, where Pastor Amanda Olson de Castillo will be our guest leader with a theme to be announced.



I do have to say that participation hasn't been great the last several months. I would love suggestions from the women to reimagine this group and also to get some broader participation across ages. We do have a nursery available each month.



Our nursery staff have been great to be available for Ladies' Night Out. I would like to send them a shout-out of thanks, and I encourage the younger women in our congregation to join us! We have a lot of fun – it's not just "church talk" and cookies! We meet the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30.

Preaching

By the time of this printing I will have preached twice in 2023, once in January and just now in October. I also led worship and preached at Family Camp – I even received dispensation from Bishop Jaech to consecrate Communion which was a powerful experience for me. I have had the honor of filling in as pulpit supply at other churches a few times too.

Bible Study: From time to time I have the great pleasure to fill in for Pastors Bill and Jonathan in Manna and Thursday Morning Bible studies. The conversation is always so fulfilling, the insights deep, and the fellowship warm.



FORETASTE OF THE SERMON TO COME

Featured

by Kimberly Holmes
Grasmick

[Leave a comment](#)

A little nibble of the Revised Common Lectionary.
Sunday's scriptures are Isaiah 25:6-9, Phil 4:1-9, and Mt 22:1-14 Jesus' Parable of the Wedding Banquet is the obvious hiding in plain [...]

Foretaste Of The Sermon To Come: Each week (more or less) I write a preview of the scriptures and some insights from Manna Bible Study to help prepare us for Sunday's sermon. If you like this blog, please consider "liking" it on Facebook and in the blog so that we get more notice in search engines' algorithms.

Confirmation Support:

Retreat: I was asked to give my faith story to the 2023 confirmands and had a very nice time of fellowship with these wonderful young people. I think I learned more from them!

Shoe Distribution: Even though Ruthe is my daughter, I am going to note the project we did as a family, along with Cathy Bohman, for her Confirmation project. My sister-in-law came into possession of a pallet of brand new shoes that either had to be destroyed or given away. Cathy worked with Cottage Bay Apartments to put together an event where we distributed hundreds of pairs of shoes to residents of all ages in a “boutique” setting. It was a great time to interact with the community and to share Christ’s love with them.



Luther Seminary: I am still studying toward my MA in Systematic Theology, and hope to be finished around this time next year. I am in candidacy with the ELCA for the diaconate. Seminary has been especially amazing this semester, as all of the studies I have done to date are coming together and God is revealing Godself as so much more than I ever imagined. I am so blessed to be able to study God’s Word and our faith in such an in-depth way alongside my work and worship life here at Silverdale Lutheran Church.

Community Connector



Silverdale Lutheran Church faithfully embraces its mission of “*Connecting to Christ and Loving Kitsap*”. Through the generosity of folks sharing their time, talents and resources, we do God’s amazing work!! SLC’s diverse ministry efforts are shared throughout the annual report as well as on our website under Community Outreach. I hope you take a moment to learn a bit more about these servant opportunities and pray for our work together.

During 2023, we expanded our efforts within our community to further support the Birkenfeld Stella Maris House for women and children and hold a one-time food drive for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank. SLC’s faithful support of LCSNW’s refugee work led to hosting an art show in June. Last winter/spring, Marilyn & Tom Hawks’ passion for sharing STEM learning opportunities led to them to partner with Esquire Hills Librarian Melodee Samson to offer an afterschool Robotics Club. 80 children participated in the weekly sessions led by a team of SLC volunteers. They plan on offering the Robotics Club again this coming winter, along with a Rocket Building Club. Through a special gift to the Community Outreach Fund, our SLC Preschool was able to refurbish all three classrooms over the summer to further enhance the creative teaching/learning of our community’s children. Our preschool is a tremendous gift to early childhood education in Kitsap County. During the summer we partnered with Esquire Hills Elementary School’s five week “Title 1 Summer Reading Intervention Program” at Cottage Bay Apartments by providing volunteers to listen to the children read, sharing free books and providing Thursday sack lunches and fun activities. Under the leadership of the Hawks & Raejean Avalos, SLC is now providing a monthly Kid Academy while the Esquire Hills parents are attending a Parent Academy. It’s all about STEM enrichment activities. Olympic High School Honor Society students and EH para educators are volunteers at the stations. The children are so engaged as they work together. We are excited about this new venture. Under the leadership of Cindy Dodge, this fall we will be renewing our partnership with Silver Ridge Elementary School of the Arts and providing “reading buddies” for their students.

“God’s work. Our hands.” servant events happen twice each year in May and November. On those days the Gathering Place is filled with opportunities to use your helping hands to work on gifts/projects to support many of our Kitsap ministries.

At SLC we believe in nurturing the servant hearts of our children and youth. Throughout the year we intentionally plan a variety of servant projects into the Sunday School time and Wednesday Youth Nights. During Vacation Bible School, the SERVE station filled Life Pax and Lutheran World Relief School Kits, created care packages and special cards for single sailors aboard the USS Ohio, and decorated flower pots complete with soil, wild flower seed hearts and a card for the shelter’s women and children.

SLC affirms the staff of CKSD Emerald Heights, Silver Ridge, Esquire Hills and Hawk Elementary Schools along with our SLC Preschool. Every six weeks during the school year, we seek to remind 253 staff that we appreciate their work and compassionate hearts for our community's children and families. As we uplift the staff, it is important to remember that those efforts touch over 529 low income children and 379 military children. This year through SLC's "Bridging the Gap Summer Reading Project", we enriched the educational growth of 45 second grade students at Esquire Hills school.

We impact the military community through offering a place of worship, learning, fellowship and service for them to call home during the years they are stationed among us. Many military families attend SLC's preschool. Our commitment to local schools enriches military children's education. We send care packages to those deployed and share gift baskets for those struggling to live in this economy. Families are connected through Vacation Bible School, family events, camps and our scout programs. Commands use our facility for meetings and gatherings.

In 2023, Community Outreach projects were generously funded through many SLC members' Thrivent Action Team Community Grants, SLC's Outreach Giving Sunday, SLC Social Concerns budget, summer brunches and SLC member gifts to SLC's Community Outreach Fund. Additionally, a \$1,000 Poulsbo Walmart Community Grant was received for Hearty Meals. The Community Outreach Equity Fund was established in 2021 to assist in outreach projects which are financially beyond budgeted dollars or grants. You have the opportunity to donate directly to this fund at any time during the year. You may give a gift in honor/memory of someone, from an estate, or just because you have a heart for loving Kitsap.

Thank you for the blessing of being able to serve with you to make a difference in our community and beyond! I look forward to the coming year as God will continue to surprise us with ways to strengthen our current ministries and with new places to join in partnership. Prayerfully consider where God is calling you to serve. Together, we do God's work with our generous hands and hearts! I am grateful.

Cathy Bohman
Community Connector

Children | Youth | Family Ministry Connector



Overview:

It's hard to believe that this time last year the Voigt ladies were preparing to say goodbye to Paul as he deployed on the USS Nimitz. I knew it would be a challenge to balance ministry and parenting, but by the grace of God and the love of MANY here at SLC, we thrived! Deployment was one thing, we also started 2023 with a sabbatical that pushed me out of my comfort zone in many ways. I learned a whole lot about myself and the congregation as a whole. The faith formation of our children and youth is my main focus, with a few other things sprinkled in. Looking back, it's clear that God is working all around and within us. I'm so proud to be here at SLC!

SLC Kids

- Sunday School
 - 2022-2023 was consistent with our new format utilizing Spark Lectionary and various enrichments.
 - 2023-2024 is off to a great start with the SLC Kids (1st-5th grade) switching to Spark Rotation for a deep dive into Bible literacy starting with the Old Testament.

- Special thanks to the incredible team who makes our Sunday school program possible by nurturing the faith journeys of our children and youth.
- Kids Word
 - Kids Word is the place to be! We continue to share the Gospel in meaningful ways.
 - Kids Word took a summer break and returned on Rally Sunday in September.
 - This ministry seems to be growing. I am thankful for everyone who takes the lead, including our incredible youth.
- VBS
 - 88 kids rocked out to the Oldies as we encountered God in the Old Testament.
 - Offering supported Life Pax
 - Purposely hosted the week prior to church picnic to invite campers out to Olympic Lutherhaven.
 - Dreaming up 2024 and planning to host it the final week of July with a 5-day camp.

SLC Families

- Ice Skating Event
- Family Camp
- Preschool Connection Points
- Preschool Sunday
- Building relationships with scouts
- Treat Trail

Youth Ministry

I absolutely LOVE working with our youth! I love watching them unpack their story and feel God's presence wherever they are. This is how I've served this year:

- Leadership at youth night
 - Specifically the Middle!
- Middle Camp Co-Director
- All Church Camp Faith Formation
- Confirmation
- Sunday School Assistance
- Finding youth where they are and celebrating their gifts.

Military Outreach

Thank you for LOVING our military families in a BIG way! Here's your impact:

- Our Military Christmas Event
- Care packages to deployed military
- VBS morale kits were created for single sailors and went directly to the USS Ohio
- We continue to connect with local businesses to support this ministry and inform the community about the incredible need.
- We are planning a special Christmas event for 2023 that will benefit 20 enlisted families.

Video

Behind the scenes I like to create content that enhances the Worship experience at SLC. This is what I've been working on:

- Pastors Annual Report
- Giving 101 Video
- Be Still With Pastor Bill
- Photo Slideshows
- Announcement Slides
- Lesson Slides

Final Thoughts:

WOW! It has been one incredible year! As I sit and reflect on my experiences this year, I am brought to tears. If you have a moment, scan the QR code and enjoy the photo montage of the BEST YEAR EVER! I have BIG dreams for SLC! Please consider joining me with children, youth, family and military efforts. Thank you for trusting me with this vital area of ministry!



Jessica Voigt
Children | Youth | Family
Ministry Connector



President's Report

As I complete my second year as your Congregation and Council President, I continue to be personally blessed to work with both our wonderful pastors, the church staff, Council and Trustees team, and many of our church members and volunteers.

As our 2023 fiscal church year is coming to the end, we have had some challenges this year of meeting our ministry expenses. Yes, our giving is significantly higher than last year. However, our expenses have been affected by inflation, as well. But I have FAITH that each of you in our congregation will be praying about the stewardship of your time, talent and treasure and do what we can to get back to equal footing in meeting our financial obligations.

The following are some of the accomplishments we've completed or participated in during this church year.

The 30-year-old organ had reached its life cycle end with repairs costing thousands and parts hard to come by. Last February, Council decided to replace the organ and choose the Meta Organworks – a custom designed software-based virtual organ. It was installed in August.



This beautiful organ was fully funded from an estate fund and the July Council Summer Brunch.



This summer, Silverdale Lutheran Church received word from the Washington State Emergency Management Division, that our **second** grant application for the 2023 Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) was **APPROVED** for the FULL grant amount of **\$150,000**, again! We will have received in two years, \$300,000 in grant funding, to improve our physical security on our church campus, a true blessing.

For 2023, the State of Washington was allocated \$3.9 million from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and our church competed with other nonprofits in our state for this grant funding. **SLC was one of two to receive this funding in Kitsap County** (Note: the other one to receive this grant was the Spirit of Life Lutheran Church – Pastor Marietta Nelson-Bittle’s church).

The following are the facility hardening activities we had submitted and was approved for:

- Cybersecurity - Physical Access Protection of Network Equipment.
- Cybersecurity - Network Protection of Sensitive Data Information.
- Additional cameras for the Gathering Place.
- Access control system.
- Lockable classroom doors in the Gathering Place.

You may have noticed that we’ve started and completed some of the physical security projects that were approved, using the 2022 grant funds.

On August, completed the installation of the “**Blast Resistant Coverings**” for ALL our exterior doors and windows. (Project Lead: David Soine)



Currently installing the “**Mass Notification System**” for the whole church campus. (Project Lead: Bruce Kramer)



In September, one of our teens, Kekoa Lyons, a Boy Scout, completed his Eagle Scout project by replacing the existing pre-school fencing with a taller 6-foot-high perimeter fence. The new material used was completely funded by the grant.



In May, your Council approved the placing of an ADA front door opener for the Gathering Place. It was installed in September.



As you can see, SLC has made great strides on capital improvements this year that would benefit our congregation for the future. These improvements will also address the need to proactively mitigate the current security requirements in today's environment.

I faithfully believe that Silverdale Lutheran Church continues to have a bright future ahead in the coming years and with your support in all areas like faithful giving, volunteering, and worship.

Our church will continue to be Grace Filled and Spirit Led!

God's Blessings,

Bradley Posadas
Congregation President



Education

Silverdale Lutheran Church is committed to providing Adult, Youth and Outreach Education in support of the mission to "Connect More to Christ" and "Love Kitsap and the World".

Despite the challenges associated with the pandemic, education continued throughout the year, including Adult Sunday School, Children and Youth Sunday School, Confirmation and mission trip, Foundations Class, Manna Bible Study, Community Group Bible Studies,

Vacation Bible School, SLC Pre-school, Summer Bible and Family Camp. Additionally, Pastor Ron Hoyum conducted a “History of the Bible” study that brought much enthusiasm and participation.

With attendance in youth Sunday School low post pandemic, a variety of offerings throughout the week were provided. A focus phone call survey (families with children between the ages of 5-18) was conducted to determine youth education needs, including delivery format preferred. 39 families out of 66 possible were reached directly (59%).

- The most prominent overarching comment from the survey was that SLC is doing a lot for youth, adults, and community on a regular and ongoing basis. There is something for everyone, and those who attend really like the church community. They stated they feel the congregation is healthy.
- There is a gap in youth Sunday School numbers based on many factors (census, age spread, COVID, schedules). There is an opportunity for increased marketing and engaging new and current members based on their passion/strengths.
- Jessica Voigt, our Children and Family Ministry Connector, led Vacation Bible School, ongoing family and youth programs, facilitated youth and confirmation events, military outreach, Kids Word, and supported requests for mid week as well as Sunday education. With her leadership and enthusiasm, the Sunday School program has expanded both in attendance and a variety of activities to facilitate understanding of the Bible stories at all levels. MOPS and small group Bible Studies are returning. A Pre-school focused Sunday brought a full house of children, and several have joined in Sunday activities since that time. Confirmation retreats, mission and mentor program were powerful, and youth are taking more leadership and outreach roles in the church and community.

It is important to note that these programs wouldn't happen without all the youth and adult volunteers and congregational support. Whether helping in Sunday School, VBS, Retreats, Mission trips, Bible Studies, Special family events, Kids Word, Acolytes, or Lutherhaven events, volunteers are critical to the success. Thank you!

Adult Education continues to be active with the Foundations Class, Manna Bible Study, Community Group Bible Studies, weekly Adult Study, Men and Women's Retreats. Core attendance is seen, feedback from participants is that all offerings continue to meet congregational needs. Plan Lay School of Theology in 2024.

Thank you for this opportunity to work in Education. This has been a year of growth, and I look forward to this continuing in 2024.

God's Blessings,

Karen McNamara
Education Council Member.

Silverdale Lutheran Preschool



The Preschool is celebrating its twenty ninth year of being a ministry of Silverdale Lutheran Church. We are so excited to be back in school with 6 classes! We currently offer an A.M and P.M. Pre-Kindergarten class on M/W/F, a 3 ½ year old class M/W/F, a three year old class on TU/TH and two, Two- year- old classes M/W and Tu/Th. As of September 1st, we have 53 students enrolled. Our preschool is now on brightwheel a preschool management software program. Our SLP families now have everything in one place. A secure check in/out, online bill pay and monthly newsletters. Our program has many Navy families who hear about us

through word of mouth (which is the best advertisement) and are looking for a new home church. Through the ministry of the preschool we can help connect military and non-military families with the church.

The Preschool has a staff of six, which works very hard together as a supportive team. Teaching the M/W/F Pre-Kindergarten AM and PM class is Debbie Kramer teaching at SLP for fifteen years! NEW this year teaching the M/W and Tu/Th two year old classes is Ann Daly at SLP for four years. New this year our teacher's aide for the two year old classes is Becky Rupp. New out of retirement our teacher's aide for the three year old class is Tricia Puebla who taught at SLP for 17 years! My name is Teresa Corigliano, I have been teaching at SLP for seventeen years. This is my fourth year as Preschool Director as well as teaching the three and a half and three-year-old class. Our Preschool Office assistant is Carol DeRusha and this will be her twenty fourth year with us! Our staff provides a safe, hands on and loving environment through the Grace of Jesus Christ.

The 2023-2024 Preschool Advisory Board members are: Karen Rowley, Cathy Hunt, Jane Rhodes, Lisa Ottenbacher, Debbie White and Rick Cotter. Megan Vaughn is our Parent Representative from our Preschool. Our Board meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The Board meetings are open to the church congregation and preschool parents, please connect for zoom link to join.

The Preschool has been enrolled in the Thrivent Choice Program now for ten years. We so appreciate any donations that are given. All donations made through The Thrivent Choice program go into our Tuition Aid Fund. The Preschool received \$3345.17 in total donations as of June 2023. This fund allows us to offer help to families that may need help with tuition or emergency situations.

The Preschool has been a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association, (ELEA) since 1995. The purpose of the association is to promote and support quality education programs. These are Christ-centered programs in early childhood centers, elementary and high schools.

This year we hope to continue to help support our community with an ongoing food drive for Kitsap Food Bank.

Communication and visibility of the Preschool within the congregation is a very important part of our ministry. We hope to be able to enjoy having you visit our classrooms, reading to the children in the classroom, taking a look at the bulletin boards in the halls and joining us for Preschool Sunday. Your welcome any time to stop by. If you have a profession, talent or hobby you would like to share with the preschool, let's talk! My goal is to bring in many new experiences for the children.

We are blessed to provide a nurturing Christian Environment for God's special gifts, the children. We hope to make the experience of Preschool a positive one for the whole family.

Ms. Debbie * Pre-K AM & PM * M/W/F



Ms. Teresa * Director * Three's Class
Tu/Th * 3 ½ Class M/W/F



New Light Table * Dramatic play foods



New Science Table * Eric Carle Theme



Welcome to Ms. Ann's Garden. We are so grateful for donations and with hard work we were able to transform the Two year old room. Add a light table and dramatic play to the Pre-K room. A science table to the Three's room.

Ms. Ann * Two year Old room M/W and Tu/Th

New * Art center



New * felt Circle time area



New * Farmers Market



Block
Center
New *
Reading
Center



Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Corigliano, Director



Fellowship

As a reminder from my 2022 Annual submission Fellowship, the word fellowship is derived from the Greek word κοινωνία, defined as “holding something in common”. As written in, *Matthew 22:10 So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.* When we gather as a church family and community, koinonia occurs. Our fellowship allows us to connect in God’s work and service to show a love for Kitsap and in the world. Because of the importance of our fellowship, it is essential to have a multitude of interaction opportunities with our family at Silverdale Lutheran Church.

2023 has been the year for getting back into Fellowship at Silverdale Lutheran. There have been multiple opportunities to gather in the name of Jesus Christ. We continued with our normal annual events and developed several new opportunities for gathering as a family and community. Some noted events in 2023 includes;

Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner- we had a great turn out for this multi-generational event. Pancakes, with all the toppings and bacon flipped from the kitchen while folks enjoyed celebrating the beginning of the Lenten journey.

Lenten Soup Suppers- The Wednesday after Ash Wednesday, traditionally begins our soup supper evenings. This year was no exception. Each Wednesday, we had at the minimum, six soup makers that brought at least 20 cups of hot delish soup or stew. At least 100 participants gathered and enjoyed soup and break bread together. Thank you to Kathy Johnson, Sue Starks, Pricilla Lacroix and Val Stueven, for ensuring our soup supper gathering went off without a hitch and with plenty of bread to break with friends.

Silverdale Lutheran’s “Cruising with Christ” – The drizzle of June weather did not damper our first, hopefully annual, Car, Truck, Motorcycle and Bicycle show. Under the skillful direction of Debbie Marsch, our show went on. We had participants from all over Kitsap County show up to share their custom vehicles. There was food, games and music to make our car show special. One of our participants commented, “one of the best shows I’ve been to, I hope you do it again next year!”

Summer Picnic- What a great day for a picnic and a swim. Randy Randolph and Val Stueven stepped up to the plate again to plan and organize this year’s picnic. We all met out at Olympic Lutherhaven on a wonderfully sunny Sunday afternoon. There were burgers and an assortment of hotdogs to enjoy, partnered up with sides,

salads and amazing desserts brought by an estimated 175 brothers and sister. We sang, ate, played, swam and boated the afternoon away. As always, what a fantastic way to fellowship with our church family and friends.

Summertime Brunches- There was no disappointments with our summer brunches, just that we couldn't cover each Sunday. Each brunch was a little unique and all very delicious. This summer the following groups provided eggs of all kinds, pastries, fruit and the beloved breakfast casseroles. The proceeds of each brunch went to a fund of the group's choice.

Friday Night Concert Series and Potlucks- The people spoke and we heard, monthly Church Potlucks are back!! Partnering with our music program, we now have Friday Night Concert Series, with is partnered with a potluck event. Our first Friday Night concert included Pamela Roberts on Cello and Justin Cormier on piano and organ. Before we enjoyed our evening of musical talents, there was food. What an amazing spread was set before us. Some old and new Lutheran dishes. However, it was noted that there were some Jell-O salad dishes missing ☺



Opportunity to develop new events and to volunteer- These are just a few of the fellowship opportunities at Silverdale Lutheran. I know there are some very creative people involved in our congregation. Don't be afraid to share your ideas and suggestions, all are welcome.

Please follow out church beacon and join us in celebrating the love of Christ through volunteer opportunities. Sign-ups are normally available electronically through our SLC App or physically, (on the wall just outside our Fellowship Hall).

May the Lord continue to bless us with continued opportunities to koinonia while providing avenues to connect with others while spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Submitted in love, Susan Shultz



Property and Grounds

COVID-19 Impacts:

As the result of restrictions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, the installed projectors and screens to better facilitate the on-line and live worship services have allowed members including home bound, guests, and on-line viewers to participate in worship. The live streaming equipment along with the two projectors and screens hasn't yet proven to reduce the need for a large number of bulletins but worshipers can now keep their eyes and attention toward the Altar while singing. Perhaps more important has been that those concerned with catching or spreading COVID-19 or its variants and those unable to travel from home can now participate in Worship.

Maintenance Issues:

Lisa Gregg continues to perform just about any task that is required plus coordinates our efforts to help her with maintenance issues during our Annual Clean-up prior to Easter. She has contracted with vendors to have the carpets cleaned and the vinyl floors waxed, organized a volunteer crew plus herself to paint the lower portion of

the Main building, assisted with the repair and installation of the new lighting system in the Sanctuary, organized the maintenance of the parking area, helped to install a new intercom system, and just about any other task needed to keep our campus looking good.

Security and Security Alarm Calls:

We continue to monitor the Northwest corner of the parking lot along with the main and security entrances to the Gathering Place plus the Fellowship Hall patio and the main building entrance with surveillance cameras. Alarm center calls continue to be either someone forgetting their code or taking too long to enter their code. However more recently a call from the Alarm Center appears to be the result of either the banners moving when the heating system blowers came on or a flying insect setting off the motion sensors in the Sanctuary. Our current security system has a recurring issue that has not been resolved resulting in bypassing two interior motion sensors each time the Alarm System is activated. There are current plans to replace the current system with a new alarm system in the near future using grant funding.

ADA Doors for Gathering Place Restrooms & Front Door:

Now that we have ADA openers on the main building restrooms and front door, there have been questions on whether we will be doing the Gathering Place also. Advance Door Systems installed ADA openers in the Gathering Place this year so they are now active. The next step is to install a handicap access ramp to the Gathering Place entrance from the parking lot.

Landscape Changes:

We are still considering trimming and/or removing trees around the perimeter of the church. The purpose is to reduce the need to clean out the gutters and reduce roof maintenance around the church buildings, and to enhance security by making the church more visible to both Ridgetop Boulevard and Ridgepoint Drive. Trees would also be removed or trimmed along the western border to improve our view while also keeping headlights out of the Breckinridge apartments by planting dense but limited height shrubs. The Security Team is also contracting to have the Eastern border fenced up to the area just behind the Sacristy area of the building.

Bob Arper
Property and Grounds Chair

Olympic Lutherhaven Inc

Silverdale Lutheran Church (SLC) is one of seven **owning members** of Olympic Lutherhaven with the addition of Evergreen Lutheran Church in February 2023. SLC has been an owner since 1955 when Emil Sunderland and others from SLC and Our Saviours Lutheran Church helped turn Rosey's Roost Resort into Emil Sunderland's vision of a Youth Bible Camp on Wildcat Lake. With your help and the help of many other volunteers, we are continuing to maintain the Camp and Picnic areas for late Spring to early Fall use.

Our Caretakers, Jolene & John Thayer, were hired effective June 1, 2022 and have served very well this past year.

Olympic Lutherhaven was open this summer with the eased and reduced COVID-19 restrictions. The Annual Work Party this year was hosted by Silverdale and Emmanuel Lutheran. SLC's Family Camp was back this year and the Church Picnic was successful. Pastor Jonathan also held the SLC Middle Camp almost immediately following Family Camp. Bethany Lutheran, Poulsbo First Lutheran, and Vinland also had their Family Camps but Emmanuel and Our Saviours did not hold a Camp but did have their Picnics. Evergreen Lutheran used the Camp area for a Women's retreat. All Church Camp ran again this year but with slightly less attendance from last year. The Picnic Area was popular with many during the hot summer days.

Maintenance projects completed included replacing a damaged Volleyball net pole at the Camp, installing a hand-washing sink in the Lodge Kitchen, converting the Lodge Deep Sink drain to an indirect drain, adding additional RV sites to replace two lost due to distance restrictions to the Well Head, installing a security camera system at the Camp, putting up parking barriers to prevent parking too close to the Well Head, and replacement of an upstairs outside door in the Lodge. In addition, Northwest Water Systems completed testing of the Camp Well. As a result, we are now in the process of making improvements to the Camp Well to meet Group A Well standards.

Maintenance projects to consider for 2024 include the following: 1) Improve downstairs Caretaker house bathroom; 2) Stain/paint Camp Cabins; 3) Repair the Camp driveway exit; 4) Replace the Picnic Volleyball court sand; 5) Replace Lodge Kitchen counter tops; 6) Fill in the many low spots in the lawns; 7) Replace carpeting in Caretaker house downstairs bedroom. These projects are dependent on funding and/or volunteer labor. If you can volunteer for any of the volunteer maintenance issues please contact Olympic Lutherhaven by phone (360-830-4445) or email (olympiclutherhaven@gmail.com). The Camp Area Well is being sample tested monthly from May through November for contaminants to ensure the water remains safe and has passed all tests this year. The Picnic Area well is also tested regularly with passing results.

Vinland Lutheran Church Council established a \$20,000 matching fund to Olympic Lutherhaven if we can get donations up to that amount prior to June 2024. Thus the Board is currently putting together some ideas on how to raise donations.

We need volunteers at Olympic Lutherhaven since we own it! We ask you to donate your time and talents to help provide a beautiful and fun place for youth of all ages to enjoy the outdoors and hear God's word. Olympic Lutherhaven belongs to our Father Almighty and all of us have a responsibility for good stewardship. Jesus asked that we teach the children and Olympic Lutherhaven is part of that task. There isn't much more rewarding than seeing children enjoying themselves while learning at Bible Camp or Family Camp. Come share the rewards! **Your representatives to the Board:**

Wayne Ferber, Bob Arper and Alternates: Jeff Ottenbacher and David Soine.

Social Concerns



I can't believe we are reaching the end of another year. The last 12 months have gone by so fast. I had a busy year, and I wish I could have done more, but am nevertheless proud of the things this congregation has accomplished.

My big event of the year was the Refugee art show in June, which was put on in partnership with Lutheran Community Services NW, and as a follow-up to the 2022 Ride for Refugees. We displayed the art of several refugees living in our region, showed a video with interviews from the artists, offered

appetizers and beverages, and wonderful live piano accompaniment, played by the immensely talented John Ackehusen. A huge thank you goes out to John, as well as Priscilla Lacroix, Sue Starks, Sherry Dungjen, and Kathy Shaw, who all did a huge amount of work volunteering their time and talents to put on the show. We had around 70 people in attendance, including volunteers, riders, and sponsors of the Ride



for Refugees. I am grateful to everyone who came out, all those who volunteered, LCSNW for their dedicated and life-changing refugee-response work, and especially to the refugees who, through their art, were willing to share with us a glimpse into their journeys.



For the third year in a row, we represented SLC at the Kitsap Alzheimer's Walk at the Silverdale Waterfront. More than 20 people joined the SLC "Team" by donating or walking the two-mile course. We raised \$1,995 for Alzheimer's research, awareness, and care, and enjoyed some fellowship time on a beautiful day on the water alongside other groups. We were thinking of loved ones who have suffered from or are currently battling this disease, as well as members of our own congregation afflicted by it.

Aside from these events, I continued to volunteer in various ways, and keep an ear out for where I might serve both in our congregation and in the Kitsap community. I am always open to suggestions and conversations as I close out my term.

Thank you for another opportunity to serve and lead in our community.

Katie Shaw, Social Concerns Chair

Hearty Meals

Hearty Meals 2023

Our Hearty Meals teams have created and served many meals throughout the past 29 years of cooking at SLC. Since the Fall of 2022, we have served a total of 2854 Meals. 2059 of these were served IN HOUSE and 795 were TO GO MEALS. The cooks shop and plan a tasty, nutritious meal, each week. We have been blessed with 2 additional HM cooks, who have joined our team. We are funded



by SLC, as well as other

monetary donations, including Thrivent money have been appreciated. Visits to the Central Kitsap Food Bank, help to stretch our dollars with bread, desserts, fresh produce and more to feed the community.

We have continued to have a FREE area where folks can take small household items, socks, gloves, hats as well as produce or bread.

The musical contributions, compliments of Justin Cormier and the Internet have been appreciated by all! As well as the special touches of the centerpieces and holiday attire worn by the volunteers.

Many of the attendees are regulars. Some are church members. Quite a few are from the community. We have noticed an increase in homeless and low income people, including some families.

It has been a joy and a blessing to be able to share God's bounty and love with the Kitsap community. There is always room for more at His Table.

Debbie Marsch

Hearty Meals Cook and Coordinator

Lutheran World Relief (LWR)

Often when disasters strike or war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion. Making LWR mission quilts is a tangible way our SLC quilters express their love to our neighbors in need. Quilts are used as warm bedding, simple tents, room dividers or floor coverings. Each quilt reflects Gods loving presence in a world rife with suffering.

The personal care kits and school kits we send each year are specifically designed to help people cope with poverty, disasters , conflict and more. A kit can help someone maintain good hygiene or to be able to continue education during a crisis. LWR kits provide dignity and hope in the direst situations.

World wide in 2022(no numbers yet for 2023) your love reached 462,262 neighbors in need In 19 countries. That included 220,317 quilts.... 94,060 personal care kits... and 90,860 school kits that SLC contributed to!!!! Those numbers are up considerably since the 2021 numbers were posted.



Spring 2023
Quilts = 161
Personal Care Kits = 117

Fall 2023
Quilts = 160
School Kits = 156
(65 from VBS; 91 from congregation)

Thank you to everyone who donated items , the wonderful dedicated SLC quilters and all the behind the scene workers involved. Karen plank and Ruthie Ackenhussen are the bag makers. The Hagens help deliver the boxes to Seattle when they can help. Thank you for continuing to support this mission in all the ways you do. Since 1981 our church has supported the LWR mission that spreads Gods love throughout the world.

In Christ's Service
Julie Harpel

Worship & Music

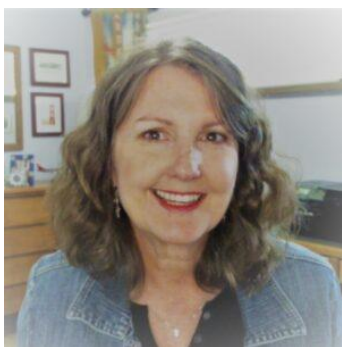


Katie Shaw Readers. We will find a place for your talents. Every Sunday we experience the kindness of you our members, and we are truly grateful to each and every one of you.

Music being such a powerful form of expression conveying emotions and feelings unites our congregation into one voice. SLC is blessed with volunteers and talents of the music and worship teams. We have had a very exciting year with the addition of our new organ. All have done an excellent job, adding additional team members and acolytes. A big thank you to Jessica Voigt for encouraging and training young members as acolytes. Justin Cormier for the outstanding music program with expanded opportunities for all to join in the worship music program. As the church continues to grow we have further need for additional team members. If you would consider being a part of the worship team please feel free to reach out to me Jo Schaefer or anyone of the worship team; Jane Rhodes, Altar Care, Bob Brien, Ushers, Greg Patterson Liturgists, Justin Cormier Music Minister and



Blessings, Jo Schaefer
Email: sch@donobi.net



Evangelism

Introduction:

My heart is full of gratitude for the opportunity to serve as your Evangelism Chair. The past year has been an incredible journey, and I am honored to have formed the relationships here.

In the words of the Apostle Paul, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you" (Philippians 1:3). Your love, faith, and commitment to spreading the message of Christ are evident in the lives we touch, and I am blessed to serve and learn alongside such a remarkable congregation.

Ministry Overview:

The Evangelism Chairperson's mission is ultimately to fulfill the Great Commission, which is to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20), and to share the message of God's love and salvation with others. The specific approach and strategies employed can vary, but the core mission is rooted in spreading the Christian faith and nurturing spiritual growth in others.

Key Achievements:

- We currently have 675 likes and 732 followers on Facebook. (4.92% increase from last year)
- We currently have 161 subscribers on YouTube (28% increase from last year)

- We have a new mobile Welcome Center. Its purpose will be a place for new visitors to get information about who we are at SLC and what they can do to get involved.
- Scheduled volunteer greeters before each service

Team and Volunteers:

I would like to acknowledge and express appreciation for the dedicated team members and volunteers who contributed to the ministry's success. Pricilla Lacroix, Georgann Thomas, Bruce Pringle, Debbie Slaton, Kerry Franklin, Karen McNamara, Katie Shaw, Bradley Posadas, Scott Slocum, Bob Arper, and Kim Grasmick have all helped greet the congregation with smiles and warm welcomes. I also thank my wonderful husband, Bryan Walton, for his work in building the Welcome Cart.

Future Plans:

- Organize and train a volunteer team to be at the Welcome Center after each service to help new visitors learn about us.
- Continue organizing greeters before services.
- Make disciples!

I encourage anyone in the congregation to volunteer as a greeter or at the Welcome Center. It is a great way to get to know people and be the friendly greeting to those that walk in our doors the first time.

Teresa Walton
Evangelism



Stewardship

Thank you to all the members of the church that have been generous with their time, talent and treasure. Monetary donations are close to meeting budget obligations, people have supported church activities with their time (such as vacation bible school), and we have been fortunate to enjoy talents of the people (such as the music ministry). There are certainly opportunities for individuals to be involved.

In 1975 the boxer Muhammad Ali was asked to give an impromptu poem at his address to the graduating class from Harvard University. His poem was two words, me, we. I would modify his poem to He, me, we. This poem reminds us that all we have comes from God. It is also about the transition from the selfishness of “me” to embracing the love of the collective “we”.

A summary of stewardship is a proclamation of thanks for our gifts and setting our soul free from the selfish “me” to the all-embracing “we.”

Paul’s letter to the Ephesians reminds us that we are all called by God to live in one spirit. “As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received....There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

Peace and Joy,
Scott Grasmick



Youth

The youth report is contained within Pastor Jonathan's report.

Jacquie Story
Youth Councilperson

Boy Scouts 1541

The vision statement of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

Every meeting we open with the Pledge of Allegiance, the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. We close our meetings with the Scout Outdoor Code. The Scout Oath is a promise to uphold all which Scouts hold sacred. The Scout Law has twelve points, which when combined remind a Scout with the qualities to be a good person. The Outdoor Code is a pledge to be good stewards of the outdoors. This tradition supports us maintaining the ideals of Scouting.

Membership - We're holding strong with 14 scouts in our troop. We've had a couple scouts move away and a couple have turned 18. This is down from 20 scouts at this time last year.

Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scouting movement, once said: "A week of camp life is worth six months of theoretical teaching in the meeting room." We have been actively pursuing the goal of having at least one outdoor adventure every month. These are some of our main highlights:

Summer at Lutherhaven – Each summer we hold our Monday meetings outside at the picnic side of Olympic Lutherhaven. We spent the summer outside swimming, fishing, picnicking, and just overall being outside. This enables the Scouts with the main reason they keep coming back, "to have fun." Thank you so much to the Lutherhaven Board and Caretakers to allow us to use the facility.

Weekend Campouts – We went on multiple weekend overnight campouts. In February we went to the District Scout Klondike at Camp Parsons, near Brinnon, WA. The scouts spent the weekend practicing, teaching and demonstrating Scout Skills like building a fire which will light with one match, building a frame with tying poles together which can walk a scout across a field. While demonstrating skills they had to work together as a team.



In March, we spent the weekend at Camp Piggott near Monroe, WA. The scouts spent the weekend learning fire arm safety and target shooting with everything from throwing knives to shotguns. They also spent time learning teamwork by completing Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience (COPE) which consists of group initiative games, trust events, and a ropes course.



In April, we spent the weekend at the District Camporee, near Port Gamble, WA. The scouts spent the weekend building fires, shooting BB-guns, and playing gaga ball. The scouts even made really tasty pizzas on a propane gas pizza oven.



In May, we did an overnight winter survival campout where the scouts made their own shelter by what they could carry in a small backpack.

In June, we had two campouts. The first was an overnight lock-in in the Gathering Place where they stayed up playing games and enjoying fellowship. The second, we stayed at Nason Creek Forest Service Campground near Leavenworth, WA. This campout we did our first high adventure activity in a long time. The troop took a white-water rafting tour down the Wenachi River. Lots of wet scouts when we were done with many smiles. It was great to see even our youngest scout at age 11 enjoy this high adventure challenge.



In July we stayed the weekend at Rainbow Falls State Park, West of Chehalis. This was a low-key campout where the scouts focused on practicing outdoor skills, leadership, and going on a 7-mile hike.

In August, we camped at Lake Easton State Park, near Easton, WA. The scouts enjoyed spending time kayaking, canoeing and fishing in the lake.



In October, we went camping overnight at Kitsap Memorial State Park. We invited Cub Scouts, looking to join Scouts BSA, to visit our troop and camp overnight with us. This gives the Cub Scouts an opportunity to see what Scouts BSA camping is all about. Also, they get to know us to and see if they would like to join our troop in the Spring. We spent the weekend playing games and passing down our outdoor skills and knowledge to the younger scouts.

Day Trips and Hikes – When we're not camping the scouts go on day activities. In March, we hiked the Dickerson Creek Trail near Bremerton. We also took some time trying out Indoor Rock Climbing in Bremerton.

In April and again in September, we hiked to the peak of Green Mountain.



Summer Camp – Summer Camp is an event we do each summer. This year we took 11 scouts to Camp Parsons near Brinnon, WA. This week-long experience is a time for memory making, for meeting new friends, learning new skills and exploring the great outdoors. Most of all, camp provides an opportunity for young people to take the lead, test their abilities and push their limits, all while having a blast. The scouts stayed very busy the whole week. One scout earned 9 merit badges within the 7 days.



Advancements – Scouts are recognized and rewarded for each achievement which helps them gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others. This year, most of the scouts have earned at least one merit badge or rank this year. Many scouts have earned multiple merit badges.

This year we had one scout, Cole Zmijski, attain the final rank Scouts BSA, the rank of Eagle Scout. Most scouts take anywhere from 4 – 6 years on their journey to reaching the Eagle Scout rank. It consists of learning & teaching Scout Skills, earning more than 21 individual merit badges, holding leadership positions in the troop, and also requires well over 12 hours of community service. Being an Eagle Scout is important because it requires immense hard work, dedication, and service to others. It gives teens something to strive for and instills confidence, leadership, and a commitment to the community. These skills carry into college, career, and adult life.



We also have three scouts who are near to completing Eagle rank. This summer they completed their Eagle Scout Project Leadership requirement. This requirement is the most challenging requirement for an Eagle Scout Candidate. They are required to Plan and Complete a Service Project benefiting their community. They have to plan the project, gain approval from community leaders, raise funds for materials, purchase materials, lead a team to complete, and finally write a report on the project and what they learned. This is quite an undertaking for a young man age 17 or younger.



The projects consisted of installing a new flag pole near the picnic pavilion at Lutherhaven. Painting a favored bible verse on a gym wall at Peace Lutheran School. Lastly, installing two huge cement pads at the baseball diamonds near Olympic High School.



Service Opportunities – Service is one of the most important values we have in Scouting. The Scout Oath calls on us all to “help other people at all times.” The Scout Law says a Scout is Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind.



Each year for Veterans Day and Memorial Day we honor veterans by placing flags on veterans' graves at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Bremerton. This is a tradition we've held for many years and continued this year. This year we also had an additional opportunity to work with the Rotary Club and support their Memorial Day Ceremony at the Silverdale Waterfront Park.

In May, we got the privilege to participate in the Bremerton Armed Forces Day Parade with the Sons of Norway lodge in Bremerton.

In September, we served supper at the Benedict House in Bremerton, WA. This was a very valuable experience for the scouts because for some it was the first opportunity to serve the homeless community.



We've had the opportunity to support Silverdale Lutheran Church in a couple ways this year. In February, we made breakfast for the congregation on Scout Sunday. In September we helped out with the St. Vincent de Paul Food Drive. We supported the SLC Treat Trail in October and are also signed up to help again this year.



Thank you, Silverdale Lutheran Church for your support and the encouragement of Scouts BSA Troop 1541.

Yours in Scouting,

Jeremiah “JJ” Story, Scoutmaster

Brad Tittle, Troop Committee Chairman

Pack 4544

We currently have 42 registered Cub Scouts and 19 registered adult leaders.

We've been fully in-person all year! Our Crossover Ceremony was our first big event, when our Arrow of Light Scouts joined three respective Troops: 1539, 1540, and 1541. Our Pack was joined by a lot of special family members, and we enjoyed their memory tables, highlighting each Scout's individual journey from Lion to AOL. We kept the party going in February during our Mad Scientist-themed Blue and Gold Banquet, celebrating BSA's birthday. Each Den Leader taught a different science experiment throughout the night, and our Den Chiefs were on hand to assist.

We conducted our annual Pinewood Derby in March, and sent four cars to the District-level race! The Pack returned to Twin Lakes for Family Camp and our Bridging Ceremony. While we were there, we did some brush cleanup and structural repairs for the grounds. So many of our Cub Scouts attended Day Camp over the summer, we had to split them into two teams! Over half of our Pack earned their Summertime Pack Award, too, by staying active all summer long.

We were able to support our local sports teams this year when they hosted Scout Nights: Sounders, Mariners, Rainiers, Silvertips, Seahawks, Thunderbirds, and early next year...the Kraken! It has been so much fun introducing our Scouts to some new sports, and creating new fans! Our Pack walked in the annual Whaling Days Parade—did you see our brand new banner? It certainly caught the attention of some of our new families! This year's End of Summer Bash and Trunk or Treat brought us new visitors and friends, too! We beat last year's popcorn sales again, and we sold over \$20,000! This money comes right back into Scouting, provides our supplies for the Scouting year, helps us do more of these fun activities, as well as give right back to our community. We're gearing up for Toys for Tots, helping many local families, and our Scouting for Food drive, which will benefit Central Kitsap Food Bank.

In addition to our fully-loaded Den Leader team, we welcomed our new Cubmaster, Brian Davis, as Lynsey will be moving up to the Troop level in January. Thank you both for such a smooth transition!

Erin Lemieux
Pack 4544

Venture Crew 1548

This past year, Crew 1548 has seen tremendous growth, in terms of both membership and activity. Our roster currently boasts 17 youth (as compared to 12 a year ago), 10 of whom are active (as compared to 4 a year ago). Not included in these counts are the at least 5 youth who have been coming to meetings and are interested in officially joining in the near future.

So far this year, we've accumulated a total of 76 youth-nights of camping (as compared to the total of 40 in our entire history prior to this year), including campouts in every month so far except March. The below table summarizes our campouts for the past year. Most notable amongst them are a successful summit bid on Mount Adams in July, and an unfortunately unsuccessful summit bid of Mount Olympus in August, for which the participants backpacked over 50 miles.

Month	Campout Focus	Location	Number of Youth Participating
January	Backpacking	Lower Big Quilcene	3
February	Backpacking/Hot Springs	Goldmyer Hot Springs	7
April	RAVE (Really Awesome Venturing Experience)	Fire Mountain Scout Camp	2
May	Mountaineering Training	Mount Rainier National Park	6
June	Rock Climbing	Leavenworth	7
July	Mountaineering	Mt. Adams	4
August	Mountaineering	Mt. Olympus	3
September	Venturing Planning	Blake Island	5

October	Rock Climbing	Frenchman Coulee	4
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In addition to our overnight trips, we have also conducted several noteworthy day-trips. These include whitewater canoeing on the Snoqualmie River in May and the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie in June, outdoor rock climbing in May, at least four trips to the rock climbing gym on Bainbridge Island, a geo-caching event, an unsuccessful attempt to climb Mt. Elinor, a waterfall rappelling trip, three separate Muir Runs (day hikes from Paradise to Camp Muir and back), and two separate mountain-biking events near Port Gamble.

Several of our youth (or young adults who were youth until very recently) are heavily involved in scouting on the council level. On our current roster are four current or former Order of the Arrow (OA) Lodge Officers, two former OA Chapter Officers, and several key planners for the inaugural Venturing Rendezvous, which will take place at Camp Parsons next June.

With this growth in numbers, influence, and scope has come some growing pains, and we're currently working to sort out how to function as a larger unit. We have scheduled on November 1st our first-ever parent/committee meeting in part to begin to address this. Also upcoming on October 26th and November 2nd are our annual planning meetings, during which we'll sort our goals for the next year and draw up our calendar, which is almost certain to include summit bids for Mount Baker and Mount Rainier, and possibly Glacier Peak and Mount Shasta. Lastly, while it's early in the planning cycle for them, we also have a wilderness survival-oriented campout scheduled for November and a horseback riding-centered campout scheduled for December.



I anticipate continued growth in the coming year, as we continue to gain momentum and establish ourselves as the unquestioned premier high-adventure Crew west of the Puget Sound.

Matt Strother
Committee Chair, C-1548

Memorials



A Memorial donation is one way for members and non-members to honor both the living or deceased loved ones. For your convenience memorial envelopes are available in the narthex.

Silverdale Lutheran Church received memorial donations in memory of the following people:

Maryellen Heald

David Keller

Bert Clark

Terri Randolph

Don Thorsen

As memorial donations are received a handwritten note of thanks is sent to the donor and the family is informed of the donation with name and address of those donating. Funds may be designated for a particular need or project at SLC. If not designated, the funds are combined and used as needs arise.

Designated funds were used for the following:

SLC organ fund given in memory of Dieter Ebeling
a memorial service stipend from Dori Pitts memorial

Undesignated funds were combined to purchase new banner rods given in memory of:

Joan Budden, Maryellen Heald, Lester Roark and Richard Wales.

Grace and Peace, Ann Cummings, Memorials Chairperson

Island Lake

Island Lake Cemetery is not located close to Island Lake but is located at 12851 Old Military Road NE, Poulsbo, WA 98370. Because Island Lake Cemetery is part of Silverdale Lutheran Church we have the Easter Sunrise Service and the Memorial Day service there. The Cemetery committee maintains the grounds for the services and as part of the normal upkeep of the cemetery from spring to fall. If you are interested in joining us in doing the maintenance please contact one of the committee members. This year maintenance has consisted of mowing, trimming, and installing locks on the entrance and exit gates. We decided to lock the entrance and exit gates this year due to past vandalism, possible drug deals using the cemetery, a stolen car set on fire, probable grave decorations stolen, and other past events brought to our attention by neighbors.



In the past year, starting with October of 2022, we have sold 5 lots and have had 3 burials not including the placement of headstones through October 2023.

Don Budden – Committee Chair

Bob Arper – Cemetery Treasurer

Sue Bye – Committee Secretary/Historian

Ed Bye & Dennis Enebo – Committee Members

Silverdale Lutheran Church 2023 Paroquial Statistical Report

November 1, 2022 to October 31, 2023

Baptized Members:	878
Confirmed Membership:	738
Received as Baptized Members:	33
Holy Baptism at SLC: (Child: 4; Adult: 3)	7
Transfer from ELCA Congregations:	2
Joining from other Lutheran Churches:	4
Joining from Non-Lutheran Churches:	0
Affirmation of Faith:	20

Received as Confirmed Members:	26
Baptized Confirmed:	20
Youth Confirmation:	6

Membership Losses:	18
Death:	5
Transfer to ELCA Churches:	0
Transfer to other Lutheran Churches:	0
Transfer to Non-Lutheran Churches:	0
Inactive:	9
Other Reasons:	0
Moved out-of-area (no transfer):	4

Average # of Persons Attending on Sundays:	430
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Special Services:

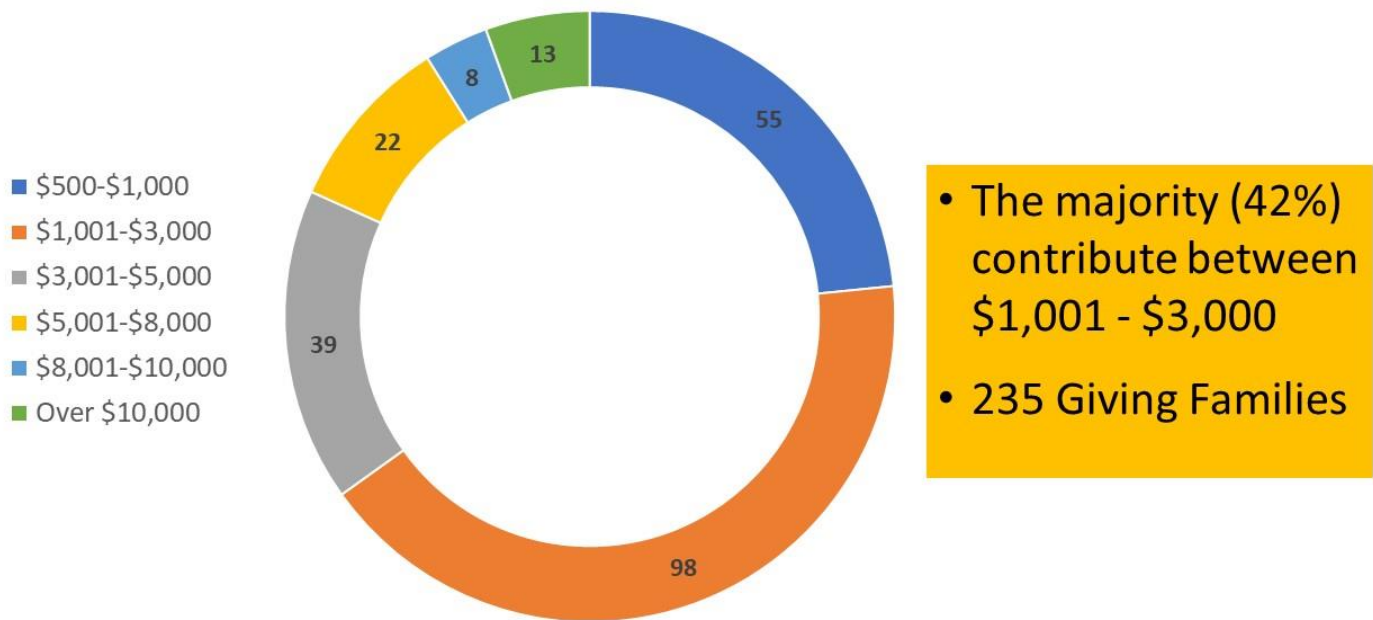
Christmas Eve Services (4) – Online	609
Christmas Day Service:	168
Ash Wednesday Services (2):	193
Lenten Services (2 weekly for 5 weeks):	511
Maundy Thursday	155
Good Friday	187
Easter Services (4):	573
Memorial Day Service:	70
Vacation Bible School:	88
Family Camp:	28

Marriage Ceremonies Performed:	4
Non-Member Weddings:	4

Funeral Services Performed:	6
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2023 Giving Analysis

2023 Giving Household Analysis



2023 Treasurer’s Report

There are four positions associated with financial operations at Silverdale Lutheran Church. These positions are financial secretary, financial counters, bookkeeper, and treasurer.

Bruce Kramer serves as the financial secretary. Bruce receives all the offerings made via EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer) from SUPSPASH or Simply Giving. He also records offering for each individual/household. The weekly counters provide Bruce with a report of the Sunday offering. He distributes a weekly deposit report to staff, Congregation President, Treasurer and Bookkeeper.

Continuing this year, a financial team of several people have performed the role of offering counters. These people are: David Soine, Bob Arper, Karen McQuillan, Dee Cotter. In 2023 we added Mary Ramsey to the

team. This team rotates on a monthly basis to count and deposit the weekly offerings at Kitsap Bank. They provide a detailed sheet to Bruce for deposit report preparation and individual offering tabulation.

Rick Cotter has continued to serve as bookkeeper. In this capacity, Rick records the deposit reports into the SLC financial program (QuickBooks) and pays bills. In conjunction with the deposits, Rick uses offering/income data to maintain a benevolence worksheet and pays the benevolences at the end of each quarter. In addition, Rick processes payroll twice monthly which involves paying employees and submitting withholdings and payments to various state and federal agencies.

Karen McQuillan serves as the treasurer. The treasurer approves all expenditures and assures that all expenditures are in line with the budget developed by the council and approved by the congregation. The treasurer provides financial reports and recommendations to the trustees and council and assists them in budget development. The treasurer also works in close coordination with the bookkeeper to ensure all benevolences are paid on a quarterly basis and make sure that expenditures are charged to the appropriate budget line item.

INCOME AND EXPENSE COMPARISON

3 year Financial Comparison thru September of 2023 (39 giving Sundays for each year.			
	2021	2022	2023
General Fund Income	\$616,823	\$627,797	\$675,933
Benevolence (9% of offerings)	\$56,155	\$56,231	\$61,444
Ministry & Operation's Expense	\$560,929	\$581,620	\$624,315
Total Benevolence and Expenses	\$617,084	\$637,851	\$685,759
Net Income	-\$261	-\$10,054	-\$9,836

BENEVOLENCES

2023 Benevolences thru September, 30, 2023 (3 quarters of the year) 9%			
General Fund Offerings		Designated Giving	
ELCA	\$40,684	Afghan Kits	\$125
Backpacks 4 Kids	\$2,191	Ukraine Relief	\$900
Stella-Maris House	\$2,083	Community Outreach	
Council Outreach	\$1,042	CK Food Bank	\$421
Empowering Life	\$1,042	Hearty Meals	\$590
Kids Town	\$1,625	Lutheran World Relief	\$1,533
Living Stones	\$4,167	Abraham's House (Lent)	\$199
Lutheran Community Services	\$4,167	Benedict House (Lent)	\$189

Martha and Mary	\$4,167	Disaster Relief	\$410
Pacific Lutheran	\$1,042	Maui Fires	\$4,506
TOTAL	\$62,210	Turkey Earthquake	\$4,055
		TOTAL	\$12,928
COMBINED TOTAL	\$75,138		

Percentage of benevolences from general fund offerings is 9%. With the additional designated benevolences (specific outreach giving), our total percentage of benevolences year to date is 11.1 %.

MORTGAGE

The only debt carried by Silverdale Lutheran Church is the mortgage. The mortgage is held by Mission Investment Fund. The loan is on a 5 year adjustable rate. The current interest rate is 6.375%., up from 5.5% at the start of the year. The principal balance is \$54,495.03 The current value of our campus according to Kitsap County is \$6,836,650.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Cotter on behalf of Karen McQuillan

2023 SLCW Annual Financial Report **November 1, 2022 – October 31, 2023**

Account Balances October 24, 2023

Income	\$19,067.23
Esther Circle	\$559.68
Joy Circle	\$285.19
Mom's Circle	\$0
Naomi Circle	\$14.63
SLCW	\$18,207.73
Altar Flowers	\$343.94
Banner Fund	\$187.54
Bazaar Funds	\$626.49
Coffee	\$2,797.36
Easter Flower Donations	\$968.05
Gas Cards	\$385.90
Grocery Cards	\$466.36
In Touch Ministry	\$0
Kitchen Equipment	\$1,617.97
Life Pax	\$600.00
Lutheran Women Today Expense	\$0
Lutheran World Relief	\$177.87
Memorial Receptions	\$1,116.00
Men's Ministry	\$208.00
Mission Support	\$100.00
Other SLCW	\$-41.77
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$279.35

Poinsettias	\$1,662.82
Prayer Shawl Ministry	\$100.00
Quilt Shipping Fund	\$100.00
Quilters Expense	\$525.00
Quilters' Supplies	\$3,769.23
WELCA Offering	\$600.00
Women's Retreat	\$1,223.34
Youth At Risk	\$0
Other SLCW	\$394.37
Tabitha Circle	\$0
Expenses	\$0
Uncategorized	<u>\$0</u>
OVERALL TOTAL	\$19,067.23

SLCW Donations (11/1/2022 - 10/24/2023)

Esther Circle

Silverdale CK Food Bank	\$200.00
ELCA 1 Micro loans	\$375.00
Lutherhaven Water Systems Repairs	\$200.00
Lutherhaven	\$740.00

Joy Circle

Bible Study Books	\$90.98
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Quilters

Oklee Quilting Supply - Batting	\$1,019.04
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Knitters

Yarn for shawls	\$244.60
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Memorial Receptions

Food	\$301.53
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Brothers Greenhouses Lowe's

Poinsettias	\$740.66
Azaleas/Lilies	\$1,142.91

Coffee Supplies	\$994.74
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Safeway Gift Cards	\$200.00
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Esquire Hills Elementary

Books

\$500.00

LWR Cording for Backpacks

\$89.03

TOTAL

\$6,838.48

Martha and Mary

As we look back at this past year, 2023 reminds us of the word “pivot.” Such a simple word meaning to turn, rotate or whirl within a matter of minutes or even seconds. At Martha & Mary, we have mastered the art of “pivoting.” With the experiences that the COVID-19 pandemic offered our fragile senior care industry and our new, upcoming Child Care & Learning Center being constructed for the expansion of Martha & Mary Kids, we have become exceedingly nimble.

Back in 2021, Martha & Mary announced transitioning the first floor of the main building, Martha & Mary Health Services in Poulsbo, into a large child care center to better serve the families in the Kitsap Community.

There is a great need for child care services in this region and Martha & Mary is the provider of choice to answer that calling. This new child care center will open a world of opportunities for our little ones. They will thrive in areas designed for growth and development for each age group from infant to 5 years of age. Adding a child care center that serves the children of not only our employees, but also the families in our community to a nursing home, is somewhat unprecedented. But with the proficiency and knowledge the Martha & Mary teams have to offer, this project is a welcome venture for all.

As with any construction project, especially one involving the care of children, we have experienced numerous obstacles through this transition. From the many surprises unearthed as we dug into our 100+ year old building, to the multiple required inspections, water tests and more, we have had to stop and “pivot” more than once. These “pivots” have caused us to extend the grand opening date into 2024 but in the end we know that through all we have endured and overcome, the new child care center will be a wonderful and rewarding experience for all who pass through their doors. The new Child Care & Learning Center already has an extensive waitlist and we are eager to open early January 2024.

In our senior living sector, we continue to mitigate the challenges of COVID-19. While the end of the Public Health Emergency was announced in May 2023, long-term care continues to work under stringent guidelines for COVID management. Wearing a face mask continues to be a common expectation by both staff and visitors. When one case of COVID is identified, we “pivot” once again to ensure all measures (which are many!) are in place to reduce the risk of transmission to others, identify the source when we can, and promptly change the course of the days planned ahead. For many COVID is simply a common cold but in senior care environments, COVID can be life threatening. So we “pivot” quickly and strive to continue to provide the quality care Martha & Mary is known for.

And last, 2023 has brought us an opportunity to open all of our doors a little wider, enjoy many of the freedoms we used to enjoy prior to the pandemic; from gatherings, outings and many other social activities, everyone had so longed for. For this and so much more, we are so very grateful!

We are growing our Martha & Mary workforce and beginning to rebuild our volunteer teams. Each and every day, we appreciate the opportunity to meet new people with purpose and passion for those we serve. We are

especially appreciative of our collaborations with our member churches, our talented staff, committed board members and the community at large. We are told time and time again how Martha & Mary has touched the lives of so many families in Kitsap County and it is our honor to continue this journey with you.