

# SAINTS

# All Saints'

LUTHERAN CHURCH

# ALIVE!

September 2026

***Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are compelled to demonstrate compassion to one another and to the world in which we live.***

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## **FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

In our Wednesday Bible study, we are currently examining the *Many Faces of Jesus*. To some, I suppose the title may seem strange or even off-putting. However, the title is only seeking to highlight the various voices of the Gospel writers as they seek to articulate who this one of Nazareth was and his purpose as it related to his ministry. Each Gospel writer had their own background to contend with, their own biases if you will. As we ponder the differences and similarities of the writers, it is important to remember that the bible did not fall out of heaven. It was written by human beings within a context. Yes, it is divinely inspired, but not infallible.

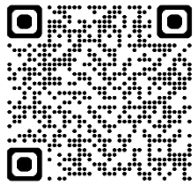
In thinking about text and context, I was considering people generally, but also, perhaps, Christians in particular. Like the Gospel writers, as followers of Jesus, each of us has our own background, our own

context, if you will. Some were raised Lutheran, some not. Some were baptized as infants, some not. Some were raised in a stable loving household, some not. Some were only children, some had many siblings. Some folks' parents stayed together throughout a lifetime, some are children or adults who have experienced the divorce of parents. We all have contexts, and those contexts flavor our lives, whether we acknowledge it or not. And yes, I think contexts also

flavor our reading of scripture. We do not come to the texts as blank slates; we come with our opinions, considerations, and, yes, biases. In knowing these things, it is important that we remain open to the text informing our contexts. We are called to allow the text and the Word of the Lord to refashion us, to transform us, which means, of course having a receptivity to change while also paying close attention to our own individual histories. It is vital that, when reading or hearing the biblical text, we allow the text to read us, rather than the reverse. The text is designed, when preached, taught, heard or read, to challenge us and, yes, comfort us. Such is the beauty of the holy text and the privilege of studying it. See you in class.

A blessed fall beginning,

-Pastor Vaswig



Be sure to check out our website at [aslcauburn.com](http://aslcauburn.com), or scan this QR code. Thank you, Val, for getting it up and running.

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## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Dear Friends at All Saints,'

When I stood watching our church burn down in a year ago, I remember asking Dave F. how long until we were back in it? He said "2 years, minimum." I have some good news! We are planning a dedication service, along with a celebration and FOOD, on... drum roll please... All Saints' Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> THIS YEAR!

Yes, you read that right. We expect to be able to use the new portion of the building by then, even if some of the finish work will still need to be done. Bishop Keith Marshall will be joining us for worship and the festivities. Details will follow, but I know I desperately needed something to look forward to, as I think we all feel it's been taking sooo long! But, the truth is that we, we are actually ahead of schedule, thanks to Dave Foltz and a myriad of others who have worked so hard to get us to this point. Let's look forward to the celebration and the years of ministry we can do with our NEW building!

Cont'd →

**“A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.”  
Ecclesiastes 3:4**

It is time to laugh and dance!

-Beth

P.S. This this event will be mainly for our membership...those who have stuck with us through this whole process. We will have an open house at a later date, inviting the community, fire fighters, and building partners.

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### **From the Financial Secretary**

Greetings, members and interested parties of All Saints' Lutheran Church. I write to you today in my capacity as All Saints' Financial Secretary with an update on where we stand with respect to giving through the first eight months of the year, as well as what I see happening over the remainder of the year.

Total offerings received year-to-date, through August 31<sup>st</sup>, are \$119,000. This equates nearly \$18,000, or 17%, more than was anticipated in the budget we passed at the January annual meeting. You might also remember the 2026 budget assumed we would have hired our new Pastor by this time, so these additional offering dollars were intended to go towards this increased cost. Remember, whomever comes aboard as our new Pastor, he or she will cost us much much more than what we've been paying our retired interim, Pastor John Vaswig.

Pledged Offerings are nearly \$5,000 above what was expected, based on pledge cards submitted to me last fall. Most of this variance is timing-related and is due to several households making quarterly payments in advance of how they are reflected in the budget. I expect these timing variances to smooth out by the end of the year, at which time the Pledged Offering variance should settle out to around zero dollars.

I am delighted to report also that we've received nearly \$13,000 in combined Non-Pledged, Non-Member, and Loose Cash offerings through these first eight months!

I have reviewed all household giving through this point in the year, from which I am able to project what I believe the year-end total picture for offerings will look

like. This projection is contingent on *your* continued commitment to your pledge, and continued regular and faithful contributions from members who didn't pledge. As I look out to the end of the year, it is my belief that we will end up receiving nearly \$170,000 in total offerings, which is nearly \$18,000 more than we budgeted. You may ask why we're experiencing such favorable results compared to the budget, which is a very fair question. The answer is that the Support Committee recommended a conservative approach to developing the 2026 budget because of two factors: 1) a decline in offering receipts in 2025, as well as 2) fewer than anticipated pledge cards were received for this year. As a result of these two factors, an offering budget of \$152,000 was recommended to, and passed by the Congregation, and which now appears will be surpassed in the next month or so! But only if we ALL continue to do what we've been doing so far this year!

I'll make one final comment about the importance of keeping the discussion about offerings in the forefront of our collective thinking, and in our household giving behaviors. About the time you are reading this message, the Council will be meeting to address the salary and benefits package that defines the level of financial commitment needed to hire our new pastor. As a member of the Council, these actual giving results through August 31<sup>st</sup>, along with the projections for the next four months, help comfort me in knowing we'll be able to make the most appropriate decision for All Saints' future.

In God's peace,

Marty Dopps

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## FUN, FAITH, & FELLOWSHIP UPCOMING EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

#### Sept 21, Monday: Exquisite Creatures



This is a remarkable exhibit by Christopher Marley. "Exquisite Creatures" is an immersive journey that challenges your perception of the natural world. Far from a typical museum display, this exhibit presents thousands of real specimens—from brilliantly colored insects and exotic fish to striking minerals and delicate plants—as works of art."

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This trip involves a lot of walking. There is little seating in the exhibit, which we will visit for 1.5-2 hours. If you have a walker with a seat, bring it! We will take the light rail from Star Lake Station to downtown Seattle, then walk ½ mile from Second Avenue to the exhibit, located at 900 Alaskan Way, across from the Coleman Ferry Dock. We will then walk the reverse coming home, back up to Second Avenue.

**Meet at the church at 9:30 am to carpool to the light rail station.**

For anyone wishing to drive, there do appear to be a couple of parking lots within a few blocks of the exhibit.

**TICKETS: Please purchase your ticket online.** This exhibit has a "timed entry." Please buy a ticket for 11am. (\$30 Senior/\$34 Adult)

Google "Exquisite Creatures Seattle" or contact Karen for assistance!

**Lunch to follow, around 1 pm, as usual!**

A sign up sheet will be on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex. Please sign up if you plan to attend this trip!

## OCTOBER

**Oct 19, Monday, we will visit Northwest Trek.**



Six new Dambo Trolls will be visiting both Point Defiance Zoo and NW Trek beginning Oct 15. We will check out the wildlife and trolls at NW Trek first! This is an accessible activity. We will ride a tram through the park.

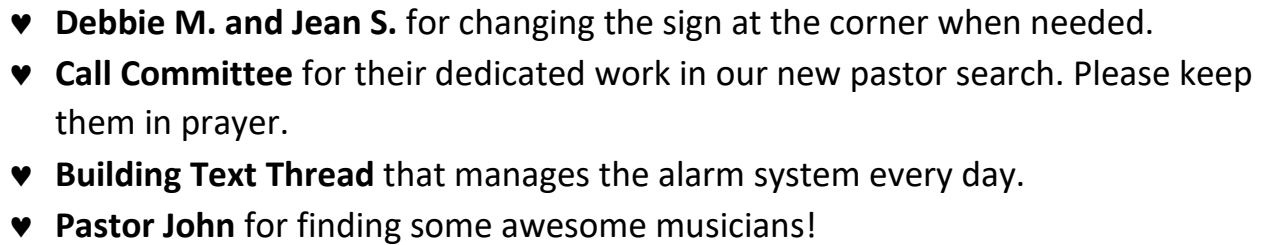
Tickets are \$23 for seniors, please purchase online.

We will meet at the church to carpool at 10 am.

Afterwards we will stop for lunch.

Watch for more details as the date approaches.

**WITH A GRATEFUL HEART**



All Saints' has frequently supported the Multi-Service Center (MSC) as our quarterly benevolence. They are having a fundraiser:

At Mix & Mingle for a Mission, you'll explore MSC's mission and learn more about our work, while engaging with passionate changemakers and making connections with attendees. This event is about networking, learning, and celebrating Hunger Action Month and the impact MSC is creating in the community.

All proceeds collected from Mix & Mingle for a Mission support the Market at Redondo Heights Food Bank, which provides weekly supplemental food to anyone needing nutritional support.

Date: Friday, September 11, 2026

Time: 4:00pm-6:00pm

Location: The Market at Redondo Heights Food Bank

27614 Pacific Hwy S

Federal Way, WA 98003

Tickets on sale now!—Just visit their website:

<https://mschelps.org/get-involved/attend-an-event/mix-and-mingle-for-a-mission/>

## Back to School Drive

Thank you to everyone for your donation. We were able to fill 24 backpacks and 16 meals for Vine Maple... God is working through All Saints.'

I have some cards to give messages of hope to each recipient for the first day of school... AGAIN I am so amazed at your generosity!

~Carol F.



# ALL SAINTS' OUTDOOR MARKET 2026

**ALL FOOD IS FREE, ALL ARE WELCOMED**



**FRESH FRUITS, VEGETABLES & MORE**

**SUNDAYS**

**11:30AM  
(UNTIL  
FOOD IS  
GONE)**

- **JULY 12TH**
- **AUG. 9TH**
- **SEPT. 13TH**

**BRING  
YOUR  
OWN  
BAGS!**

**ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
(Light Green Church, Corner of Military Rd S. & S. 272nd)  
27225 Military Rd S**

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