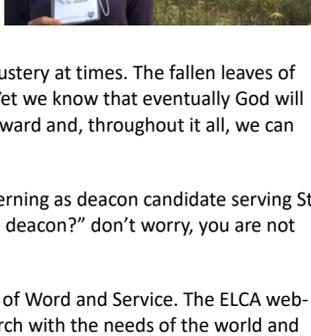


From Sister Jessica

Dear Community,

It is my joy to write to you as the new diaconal intern for St. John United Lutheran Church! Thank you for graciously welcoming me into your community.

In Fall, the turning leaves, the crisp air, and the shorter days can be felt as a nudge from the Creator, calling us to slow down after our bustling summer and prepare for the upcoming winter. Fall is a season of settling, of re-discovering a healthy routine that tends both to ourselves and to our communities. It's an opportunity to evaluate what our soul needs and then let the rest fall away.



This season of re-entering routine can be blustery at times. The fallen leaves of summer don't always like to settle quickly. Yet we know that eventually God will rake away those leaves to clear our path forward and, throughout it all, we can lean on each other.

This fall, I will be settling into the role of interning as deacon candidate serving St. John United. If you're wondering, "what is a deacon?" don't worry, you are not the first to ask!

In the ELCA, deacons are rostered Ministers of Word and Service. The ELCA website explains that deacons "connect the church with the needs of the world and work to equip others to lead a living, active, and caring Christian life." Whereas pastors are focused on holding a community, deacons help send people out to do God's good work.

You will notice that I sign this letter as "Sister Jessica." That's because in addition to being a candidate for ordination to the ELCA deacon roster, I am also an invested member of the Deaconess Community of the ELCA. It's a lot to follow, I know! The Deaconess Community is an intentional community that supports women in diaconal ministry across a wide variety of calls.

My call is to community organizing around faith-based environmental stewardship. I am passionate about a justice-oriented approach to creation care in which all can participate. I live this call out professionally as the Program and Outreach Director for Earth Ministry, a nonprofit that has happily moved into the downstairs office space at St. John United.

Spending the next year with you in not only part of my seminary education and candidacy requirements, it is truly a gift. Thank you for inviting me to learn, practice, and grow with your community. I look forward to joining you in worship at least once a month and stepping in to the contemplative and creative space being fostered by the Listening for a Change Team.

It is an exciting time to embark on this journey together! I am happy to talk about any of the above in more detail, and would love to hear your story as well. You can reach me at sisterjessica@stjohnunited.org

I pray you find peace as the fall leaves in your life begin to settle.

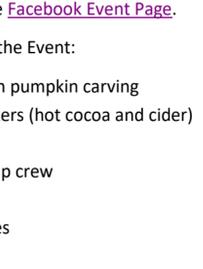
Blessings of the Season,
Sister Jessica

EVENTS:

Pet Blessing This Sunday

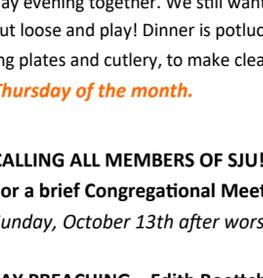
9:30am—10:00am on Sunday, October 6th

This Sunday is our annual blessing of the animals! Bring your beloved animal, or a picture of them, to church before worship. We'll bless them together with the Sunday School, and make a little bulletin board display of our beloved companions. Afterwards, you're welcome to bring them home or keep them at church for the remainder of the service, depending on their comfort level.



HARVEST FESTIVAL – Plants & Pants!

October 12th, 10am – 3pm (Potluck at Noon)



There will be chances to try your hand at sewing, explore the property through a scavenger hunt, take home seeds, learn about the garden, meet the festival mascot and more! Share the event using flier or the [Facebook Event Page](#).

Volunteers Needs for the Event:

- ⇒ Adults to help with pumpkin carving
- ⇒ Hot beverage makers (hot cocoa and cider)
- ⇒ Greeters
- ⇒ Set up and clean up crew
- ⇒ Fire pit tenders
- ⇒ Yard game referees

COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT & POTLUCK

October 17th from 6-8pm (FH)

All ages are welcome to this fun church family evening. Come when you can, bring a game, play a game, start a puzzle, sit and chat with a friend and enjoy a casual week-day evening together. We still want this to be a family friendly event, where kids can cut loose and play! Dinner is potluck style. Consider bringing your own picnic or camping plates and cutlery, to make clean up easier. **This event recurs every Third Thursday of the month.**

CALLING ALL MEMBERS OF SJU!

For a brief Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers

Sunday, October 13th after worship

LAY PREACHING – Edith Boettcher

Sunday, October 13th

Come hear our own Edith Boettcher share the good news in worship through preaching. Interested in trying this out yourself? Contact Pastor Anna for more information.

ANNUAL FALL CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, October 19th ~ 8am - 12pm

Lots of exciting tasks to do, big and small, inside and out. More information to come with food sign-ups, and lists of tasks.

REFORMATION SUNDAY 2019

Sunday, October 27th

Pull out your favorite read clothing, to commemorate the start of the Lutheran church.

ORGANIZING FOR MISSION NETWORK GATHERING

October 24-27 in Washington DC

Contact a member of the listening team if you'd like to join the SJU group at this event.



PHANTOM OF THE OPERA with LIVE ORGAN MUSIC

7:30pm on October 31st – Halloween!

Come on down this Halloween for a showing of the 1925 version of Phantom of the Opera starring Lon Chaney, accompanied by live organ music. All ages are welcome, although the film is a bit scary. Suggested donation is \$10.

There may even be some Halloween treats to enjoy during the film.

INSTALLATION OF BISHOP SHELLEY BRYAN WEE

By the Grace of God

The Reverend Shelley M. Bryan Wee

is called as Bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

She will be installed at a festive service of Holy Communion on

Saturday, November 2 at 2pm at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral

(1245 10th Avenue East, Seattle, Washington)

The Reverend Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

will preach and preside.

Your prayers and presence are requested.

A light reception will immediately follow the service.

NEWS:

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

	Budgeted	Actual (Jan-July)	% of Budget
Offerings	\$ 54,779	\$ 130,000	42 %
Total Income	\$ 155,000	\$ 280,780	41 %
Total Expenses	\$ 165,248	\$ 270,487	61 %

We are working to make regular financial updates more accessible. You're feedback is most welcome. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact a member of the Finance Committee: Steve Johnson (treasurer), Alicia Healey (bookkeeper), Jean Leavens, Jan Olsen, Dan Kaam, Pr Anna Rieke.

Did you know that you can set up recurring giving online? Just visit our website and click the [DONATE](#) button on the bottom of the page. That will take you to a page where you can submit a one time gift, or set up an account to start a recurring gift. The amount can be stopped or changed at any time.

OUR NEW WEBSITE UP IS AND RUNNING!

Check out our new website, at the same great address – stjohnunited.org. We're always happy to hear your feedback, especially as we all get used to this new site. Notice that special events will now be posted on the homepage. Featured blog posts will also show up at the bottom of the homepage. You can still give online and even set up automatic giving, but clicking on the [DONATE](#).

PASTOR ANNA AWAY FOR CONTINUEING EDUCATION October 22-26

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: If you have something you would like to show up in our publications (monthly newsletter, weekly bulletin and weekly email), please send it to Jean in the church office, preferably worded as you would like it appear. Weekly news should be submitted by Wednesday, to make it into the bulletin or weekly email. Monthly news should be submitted by the last Monday of the month.

RECURRING MEETINGS & GROUPS

- Council: *Second Tuesdays at 7:10pm (BR)*
- Finance: *Third Thursdays at 5pm (BR)*
- Mutual Ministry: *Third Wednesdays at 3pm (PO)*
- Listening for a Change: *Every Friday at 10am (BR)*
- Property: *Tuesday, October 8th at Noon*
- Church Choir: *Thursdays at 7pm (CR)*
- Handbells: *Thursdays at 6pm (S)*
- Garden Workdays: *Second Saturdays at 9am (G)*
- Men's Breakfast: *Second Saturdays at 8am (FH)*
- Family Fun Nights: *Third Thursdays from 6-8pm.*
- Fabric Fantasy Quilters: *First, Third and Fifth Thursdays from Noon -2pm (FH)*

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8am - 1pm

PASTOR ANNA'S SABBATH DAYS:

FINDING SISTER JESSICA

Look here each month for Sister Jessica's Schedule. Please be mindful that she also has a job with Earth Ministry, which is in our building, and we'd like to respect these jobs as distinct. Want to contact her or set up a 1-1 meeting? Her SJU email address is

sisterjessica@stjohnunited.org.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH – PASTOR ANNA PREACHING, SISTER JESSICA ASSISTING

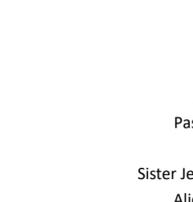
OFFICE HOURS – WEDNESDAYS FROM 10-NOON, STARTING OCTOBER 9TH.

LISTENING FOR A CHANGE TEAM MEETINGS – FRIDAYS, 10AM – 11AM

INTERN COMMITTEE MEETING – DATE AND TIME TBD

SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS				
	10/6	10/13	10/20	10/27
Altar Guild	Linda H.	Lorie L.	Anne J.	Ellen B.
Lector	Shari S.	Jodie P.	Mark L.	JD K.
Texts	Hab. 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 37:1-9 2 Tim. 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10	2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c Psalm 111 2 Tim. 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19	Gen. 32:22-31 Psalm 121 2 Tim. 3:14-4:5 Luke 18:1-8	Jer.31:31-34 Psalm 46 Romans 3:19-28 John 8:31-36
Communion Assistant	Dikka B.	Ellen B.	Bill P. & Anne J.	Carolyn L.
Usher	Jan O. & Jan C.	Jan O. & Jan C.	Jan O. & Jan C.	Jan O. & Jan C.
Counter	Linda H.	Eileen L.	Jerry P.	Lorie L.

FROM THE BISHOP



Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee | From the OCTOBER 2019 edition of The Spirit

Thursdays in Black

For the next several months, as I am able, I will raise up issues, resolutions, actions and memorials that were taken at the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. This month I am focusing on the ELCA's commitment to the World Council of Church's "Thursdays in Black" campaign toward a world without rape and violence.

Several years ago I sat in the window seat on a plane. The plane ride was long. Fourteen hours long. The man next to me struck up a conversation. We talked for a while. I then fell asleep. When I woke up it was dark in the plane's cabin. No lights were on. Everyone appeared to be sleeping. But the man's head was resting on my shoulder. Thinking he would be embarrassed when he awoke, I gently tried to move my shoulder away from him in order to give him more space. Instead, this man woke up and with his face right next to mine he attempted to kiss me while groping me. I was caught between this man and the wall of the plane. Why I didn't notify the flight attendant is still a mystery to me. Instead, I somehow pushed my way out to the aisle and wandered through the plane – wondering what to do. Honestly, I couldn't think. Eventually I returned to my window seat and sat as close to the window as possible, as far away from the man as possible, putting a barrier of sweater, blanket, and pillow between me and the man.

You know, with the amount of violence and harm that happens to women throughout the world, this is a small story. Unfortunately, many women have much worse stories to tell. This is why this month I want to lift up the important action that took place at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. The assembly voted to adopt a resolution to support the World Council of Church's "Thursdays in Black" campaign toward a world without rape and violence.



In its simplest form, this means wearing black on Thursdays declaring our support through words and actions towards a world without rape and violence. The color black was chosen as a color of strength. As the WCC's *Thursdays in Black* website states, "Often black has been used with negative racial connotations. In this campaign Black is used as a color of resistance and resilience."

I invite you all to wear black on Thursdays. I hope that you will look at the website and see the materials available for you and for your congregation. (The link to the website is www.oikoumene.org/en/get-involved). Especially, I strongly encourage and advocate that we all work towards a world where there is no more rape or violence against any vulnerable population. As WCC's *Thursdays in Black* website states, "We all have a responsibility to speak out against violence, to ensure that women and men, boys and girls, are safe from rape and violence in homes, schools, work, streets – in all places in our societies."

In the synod office, we have ordered pins that you are welcome to wear each Thursday. We hope that you come and visit the office and pick up a pin. Even more, beloved Children of God, I pray that God grants us courage and strength as we work towards peace, wholeness, justice, and love.

In God's Peace and Joy,
Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

5515 Phinney Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98103
(206)784-1040 - www.stjohnunited.org
Pastor Anna Rieke: pastor@stjohnunited.org
Jean Leavens: office@stjohnunited.org
Sister Jessica Zimmerle: sisterjessica@stjohnunited.org
Alicia Healey: bookkeeper@stjohnunited.org

The church office is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8am - 1pm.

To be removed from this mailing list, contact the church office via email or phone.