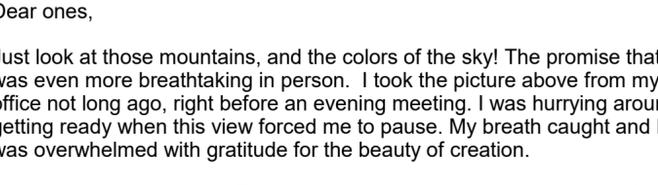


From Pastor Anna



Dear ones,

Just look at those mountains, and the colors of the sky! The promise that it was even more breathtaking in person. I took the picture above from my office not long ago, right before an evening meeting. I was hurrying around getting ready when this view forced me to pause. My breath caught and I was overwhelmed with gratitude for the beauty of creation.

It happens now and then. The view arrests me and catches my attention. Sometimes I take a picture, and looking back, no two have ever been the same. While it's the same mountains, waters, trees, and sky, it never looks exactly the same. Between the time of day, and changes in the weather, and perhaps my own eyes, the same view comes together to form a new experience every time.

These moments of awe also have way of calling me back to what matters, and causing me to consider, even if just for a moment, what really matters. It forces some perspective in a day that might otherwise sweep me away. It is my hope and intention, to invite more of those moments into my days. Moment when I stop to consider the deeper calling, the longer vision and the One who is the source and grounding of my life.

Among the leadership of SJU we are also bringing in more intentional perspective and planning. We've begun looking further ahead, such as calendaring our major 2020 events and sharing them at the Annual Meeting. We're planning an expansion of the Hot Meal Program and our outreach and engagement efforts (see the news section below). We've begun to ask questions like, "What are concrete ways we can support new and existing families at SJU?" and "How can we improve turnout at community events like our free concerts?"

We plan *and* dream because we know that God is using us to love the world. We're starting to take that more seriously! To become even more impactful and sustainable, we have to put in some work, but perhaps more importantly, we have to see the forest for the trees. It means stopping to take in the view and letting God move us to work differently, not harder.

*See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
- Isaiah 43:19*

As we journey forward with care and intention, I pray you see today the seeds that are asking to be tended, so they can be harvested tomorrow. I have no doubt that the garden of this community is ready to bloom.

Your sister in Christ,
Pastor Anna

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Why Climate Change is a Matter of Faith
Sunday, February 16th after worship at SJU (EL)
Sister Jessica and the Listening for a Change team invite you to a lecture and discussion after worship, accompanied by a "plastic free coffee hour".

Civic Academy on Homelessness, Train the Trainer
Saturday, February 15th from 10am—Noon at SJU (EL)
Do you care about the problem of homelessness, but find it hard to talk about with others? Do you find the conversations you do have frustrating? Join other leaders from Sound Alliance to grow our capacity to have civil discussions that can lead towards positive change. Contact Pastor Anna with questions, or simply show up!

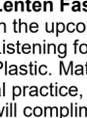
NEW Sound Alliance, Seattle Housing Team Meeting
Third Tuesdays at 6pm at SJU (EL)
First Meeting: February 18th at 6pm

Ash Wednesday Worship & Imposition of Ashes
Wednesday February 26th at 7pm at SJU (S)

Transfiguration Sunday—February 23rd

Word & Service Tea with Sister Jessica
Saturday, February 29th at 10am (EL)
Join Sister Jessica for a second installment of this time to discuss how we live our faith in the world, and share tea and treats together.

Soup Supper & Evening Prayer
Thursdays in Lent—March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2
Join in community for this special time of year, when we gather for soup supper (6pm) and a simple evening prayer service (7pm). Whether it's a time to help sustain your Lenten practice, a opportunity to see friends, or simple an easy way to enjoy mid-week dinner, you're welcome as you are, when you can come.



To participate by bringing soup, bread, or helping with set up or clean up, you may sign up using this online sheet: [2020 Lenten Soup Supper Sign Up](#). This sheet will also be posted near the bulletin boards on Sundays.

"House Listening" on Climate Change
Hosted by Listening for a Change Team
Save the date: Saturday, March 7th at SJU
After listening and doing research, the LFaC team invites you to bring your passion and concern as we consider the ways we might have an impact climate change, and discern together how we can act. This meeting is open to the public, so feel free to invite neighbors and friends.

Quilters Meet Quilters, Beginners Begin
Saturday, March 21st from 10am—2pm. Soup lunch at Noon.
Come to learn how to sew, help assemble a quilt, trade fabric, meet other crafters and share a simple meal together. There are plenty of helpful tools for volunteers to do, like greet newcomers, teach sewing, wash dishes, and more. Contact Dikka at strawberrella@yahoo.com or 206-547-7557 with questions or to volunteer.

NEWS:
Lenten Fast From Single-Use Plastic
In the upcoming season of Lent, to compliment the climate change efforts of the Listening for a Change team, you will be invited to join a Fast from Single-Use Plastic. Material will be available before Lent to help guide us through this spiritual practice, and our gathered time together on Sundays and Thursday evenings will compliment this theme and any other fast you choose. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 26th.

Sunday School & Adult Forum
Sunday School and Adult forum are on hiatus February 19 and 26 for winter break. On *Sunday February 19, at 9:15am*, those interested in shaping the March sessions are invited to gather in the boardroom.

Investing in the Future of SJU
Your leadership is starting to develop a plan for the use of a financial gift that comes by way of a bequest from the estate of a former member. The seed idea is to use this money to reinvest in the future growth of our church, through intentional outreach and engagement both internally and with the community in which we exist. A primary piece of this plan is to hire a new staff position to work alongside our existing leader. If you're passionate about the sustainability and growth of this faith community, contact Pr Anna to see how you can help put this plan in motion. We'd like to put together a small team to do thing like develop a timeline, desired outcomes and job description.

Hot Meal Program Vision and Plans
We are giving serious consideration to adding a third free hot meal to the already two that happen weekly at SJU. In partnership with the Phinney Neighborhood Association, we envision also deepening the supportive services and community that's offered through this program. If you're interested in helping to put this plan in motion, contact Pastor Anna. We're looking for people, initially, who can help with things like working out kitchen and storage use to accommodate increased capacity, and developing more explicit processes around building use, volunteer support, etc. Once the adding of the meal gets going, we hope to form a Shared Advisory Team which can support the continued flourishing of the program.

FROM OUR PARTNERS:

Sound Alliance:
Upcoming events:
=> Week Long Community Organizing Training in Spokane. June date TBD.
=> Seattle Housing Team meetings at SJU on 3rd Tuesdays at 6pm.

Organizing for Mission Network:
As a member of the OFM Network, we can bring a limited number of people to the contextual gatherings free of charge. Contact Pastor Anna to learn more. Upcoming events:
=> [Contextual Gathering at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in New Orleans](#)
=> [Community Organizing as a Spiritual Practice at PLTS, May 26-30](#)

Earth Ministry:
Upcoming events:
=> [Trivia Fundraiser Saturday, March 14, 2020, 4-6:30pm at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church \(111 NE 80th St, Seattle, WA 98115\).](#) Register [here](#).

Compass Housing Alliance:
Upcoming events:
=> [Compassion Brunch](#) on Saturday, February 15th at the Seattle Swedish Club. Register for free [here](#). Check in starts at 10:30am. Program begins at 11am.

Lutheran Youth of North Seattle (LYONS): The LYONS board is reforming into Project Phoenix, with the intention distributing funding for youth to attend the May Youth Weekends at Holden Village and the ELCA Youth Gathering. Check in with our new board reps, Brian Rulifson and Brandon Hardenbrook for more information.

RECURRING EVENTS:

Bible Study: *Wednesday, February, 12th at 7pm (BR)*
Church Choir: *Thursdays at 7pm (CR)*
Community Game Night: *Third Thursdays from 6-8pm (FH) Canceled in February*
Council: *Tuesday, February 11th at 7:10pm (BR)*
Fabric Fantasy Quilters: *First, Third and Fifth Thursdays from Noon -2pm (FH)*
Finance: *Thursday, February 20th at 5pm (BR)*
Garden Workdays: *Second Saturdays at 9am (G)*
Handbells: *Thursdays at 6pm (S)*
Listening for a Change: *Fridays at 10am (BR)*
Men's Breakfast: *Saturday, February 8th at 8am (FH)*
Mutual Ministry: *Wednesdays, February 19th at 3pm (PO)*
Property: *tbd*

Building Key: Sanctuary (S), Emmaus Lounge (EL), Boardroom (BR) Fellowship Hall (FH), Kitchen (K), Garden (G) Front Patio (FP), Narthex (N), Choir Room (CR), Pastor's Office (PO), Office (O)

FINDING SISTER JESSICA

sisterjessica@stjohnunited.org

OFFICE HOURS – WEDNESDAYS, 10-NOON

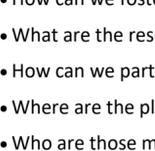
LISTENING FOR A CHANGE TEAM MEETINGS – FRIDAYS, 10AM – 11AM

WORD AND SERVICE TEA TIME—SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH AT 10AM

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS				
	2/2	2/9	2/16	2/23
Altar Guild	Linda H.	Carolyn L.	Nancy W.	Anne J.
Lector	Jan C.	Shari S.	Jan O.	Carolyn L.
Texts	Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12	Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 112:1-10 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 Matthew 5:13-20	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 119:1-8 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37	Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 99 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9
Communion Assistant	Dikka B. & Jodie P.	J.D. K.	Ellen B.	Anne J.
Usher	Joe M. & Verna R.	Joe M. & Verna R.	Joe M. & Verna R.	Joe M. & Verna R.
Counter	Joe M. & Verna R.	Joe M. & Verna R.	Joe M. & Verna R.	Joe M. & Verna R.

From Your Bishop:



Grace Grants

From the February edition of The Spirit

I am excited to announce that the application process for Northwest Washington Synod Grace Grants is open. Thanks to the vision and desire for continued ministry, Grace Lutheran, Bellevue gave the synod council a percentage of their proceeds when they closed their ministry. The synod council, in turn, wants to invest this money in congregations and ministry sites who are doing faithful innovation. In that spirit, Grace Grants were born.

For each of the next three years, \$100,000 will be made available for congregations and ministry sites to apply for Grace Grants. If other congregations, institutions or individuals would like to contribute to this fund, the synod council will continue Grace grants beyond these initial three years.

Congregations and ministry sites are welcome to apply for grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$20,000. The council welcomes all applications. In particular, the Grace Grant Committee and synod council are looking for congregations who are faithfully looking into the future, trusting God, and seeing new possibilities in sharing the story of Jesus.

As you consider these grants, these questions might help you discern what God is up to in your area of the synod:

- What is happening in your church's neighborhood? Where do you see possibilities for partnership or collaboration?
- What is our unique ELCA identity and witness?
- Are there avenues to talk with and listen to those outside the walls of the church?
- How can we equip disciples and our own community of faith?
- How can we foster a spirit of connection across the synod?
- What are the resources needed to develop new leaders?
- How can we partner with young adults, listening and collaborating?
- Where are the places we can be more eco-friendly in our church buildings?
- Who are those marginalized?
- Who are those discriminated against?

Of course, there are other areas to consider for ministry through these Grace Grants. These are just a few ideas that might help.

As you prepare, here are some important dates:

- February 1 - Grant Application Period open, find form on synod website.
- May 1 - Applications due. No late applications will be accepted.
- May - Grant committee review will take place.
- June 5 - Final approval of Grants by Synod Council.
- June 6 - Notification of grants awarded at Synod Assembly.
- July 1 - Grants to be funded

Grants need to be used between July 1, 2020 & April 1, 2021. Grants are potentially renewable.

I hope you find this opportunity as exciting as the Northwest Washington Synod Council. We are excited to continue vitalizing our congregations and ministry sites into the future – as we trust God is walking with us, leading us and guiding us.

Grace & Peace,
Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

5515 Phinney Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98103

(206)784-1040 - www.stjohnunited.org

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

STAFF

Pastor—Rev. Anna Rieke: pastor@stjohnunited.org

Intern - Sister Jessica Zimmerle: sisterjessica@stjohnunited.org

Music Director - Nathan Jensen: doublenorwich@hotmail.com

Office Manager—Jean Leavens: office@stjohnunited.org

Bookkeeper—Alicia Healey: bookkeeper@stjohnunited.org

Custodian—Devon Hathaway

To be removed from this list, you may reply to this message or contact the church office.