



Here is your Thursday Note for September 14, 2023

The bulletin for Sunday, September 17

http://www.ctslutheran.org/uploads/9/5/0/0/95003086/2023_09_17_otd.pdf

SEPTEMBER 2023 Servant Song Newsletter

http://www.ctslutheran.org/uploads/9/5/0/0/95003086/2023_sept_servant_song.pdf

Readings for Sunday September 17

Genesis 50:15-21

Joseph reconciles with his brothers

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)

Romans 14:1-12

Accepting diversity in the community of faith

Matthew 18:21-35

A parable of forgiveness in the community of faith

Covid Uptick

Health officials report that there is a national uptick in Covid-19 activity and that we can expect more infections as fall approaches. We invite you to stay current on Covid activity and take precautions as appropriate for you and your household. We are a community- whether in person or on-line, wearing a mask, or not. Each of us has a different health story and household situation. Please take care of yourself in the way that best works for you and respect those who make other choices.

The CTS Executive Committee

CTS EVENTS

THIS SUNDAY! Rally Sundays Picnic, September 17th, 4:30 at CTS.

Come enjoy the live music, play some games, and share in the potluck. Brats/hot dogs, beverages and table service provided. Rain or shine, invite someone to join you for some picnic fun!

Ministry Fair

September 17 and 24 during Coffee Hour.

Come browse posters and displays from our many ministries and community activities. What might be calling you this season?

Children and Youth

Sunday September 17: Acolyte training (Ages 3 and up) 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

All children and youth interested in serving as Junior Acolytes (Ages 3-8) and Acolytes (3rd grade-8th grade) are asked to attend a short training session directly following worship on September 17. Junior Acolytes will train from 11:00-11:30 and Acolytes will train from 11:00-12:00 PM. If your student has interest in carrying the cross, lighting candles, assisting communion and other worship ministries, please plan to attend.

Upcoming Sunday Adult Forums

Sundays at 11:00am, Adult Forum Room at far north of building

September 17 and 24: Visit the Ministry Fair in the narthex/fellowship area

September 24: "Generations in the Church"

Join our Director of children and youth ministries, Nicole Pridachuk, for a presentation on "Generations in the Church." Nicole will guide us through some generational differences in American culture and how understanding those differences can make us a more inclusive community. Visit the ministry fair booths to sign up to learn about and participate in CTS's ministry!

October 1: The "De-Churching" of America

Pastor Jana will present information on current trends regarding the decline of church membership and religious affiliation in America.

Adult Education: Monthly Psalms Bible Study

The Psalms are the Bible in miniature. They are the ancient praises of Israel and the hymnody of the church throughout the centuries. And they are words and songs for us. They interpret us—in our joy and confusion, anger, and sadness. They give us words when we have none, and—like all of God's word—they bring us God. "This is my comfort in my trouble, for your word has given me life" (Psalm 119:50).

Once a month this Fall we will meet to read, discuss, and pray the psalm of the day. Todd Hains will lead the discussion; where we meet will depend on what spaces are free that Sunday. Bring your favorite Psalter and join us!

9/17: Psalm 103

10/8: Psalm 19

11/12: Psalm 78:1–8

12/10: Psalm 85

Compassion Circle - THIS upcoming Sunday, Sept 17 - (offered monthly)

"Getting beyond the generic 'How are you doing?' greeting, the Compassion Circle gives us the gift of tuning into one another and tuning out the distractions of the outside world. This is a time to share the stories of our day-to-day lives because they matter! Don't feel like you need a profound story to share; that's not what this is for."

Compassion Circle is a facilitated process of story sharing that builds deeper connections, and vital skills of listening, empathy, and compassion.

Begins 15 minutes following end of worship and meets in the Library (this month).

Note: Coming once does not commit you to continue to come, though we have found that once people come, they have found it nourishing and want to return. Facilitated by David Westerlund

Monthly Text Study with Pastor Jana

Third Thursdays of each month from 10:00am-11:30am in the CTS Conference Room

Take a deeper look at upcoming Sunday lectionary scripture texts with Pastor Jana as we use mutual invitation to explore what God is doing and saying to us--both personally and to our congregation/community. All are welcome.

Celebration of Life for Bob Ham

There will be a memorial service for Bob Ham at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church on September 23, 12:00 noon. The service will also be Live-Streamed. All are invited to celebrate his life. Following the service there will be a full meal reception at Broadway Hall (1300 Broadway, Bellingham) from 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM with all invited.

Fridays in September @ 9:00 AM, Men's Fellowship

While the weather is nice, the Friday Men's Fellowship will meet at the North end of Boulevard Park at 9 AM each Friday. Bring your lawn chair and beverage of choice and join us for wide-ranging conversations. For more information contact Tim Surratt, 360-303-8160.

Lunch and Communion at The Willows

Pastor Jana will be offering communion at The Willows Retirement Community (3115 Squalicum Pkwy.) on the second Thursday of each month. This will be preceded by lunch at noon for anyone who wishes to participate. LUNCH: All are welcome. Please contact Jennifer Johnson (360-920-3865) by the Sunday before the date if you plan to have lunch as a head count for the staff is important. The cost is \$15 and payment by check or cash is accepted. The staff requests no credit cards please. Proof of Covid Vaccination is required. Dates: September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14, January 11, February 8, March 14, April 11, May 9

New Member/Inquirers Class

Have you been worshipping at CTS as a guest but want to become part of this faith community? Or do you just have questions about the congregation or Lutheranism? You are invited to the two-part new member/inquirers class at CTS taught by Pastor Jana:

Saturday, October 21, 10am-12pm, CTS Fellowship area (childcare provided)

Sunday, October 22, 11am-12pm, Adult Education classroom (adult ed class on Lutheranism; childcare provided)

New members will be received during worship on Reformation Sunday, October 29.

Receive and turn in a new member form (due Oct. 22) via office@ctslutheran.org

SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

BELLINGHAM COMMUNITY MEAL PROGRAM

Our next meal is September 30, 2023. If you haven't had a chance to sign up, we would love to have you. We've added a new position "Flier Distribution" This volunteer will work with a board representative to distribute BCM fliers to 15 locations across Bellingham a week before the meal distribution. If you are interested in this- please sign up!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0948A8AA2DAAF85-september>

Our volunteers usually work 2-3 hour shifts, the last Saturday of each month, starting at 8:00 a.m. and finishing up at about 4:00 p.m. We are excited to return to in-person dining!

Cookie and muffin/breakfast bread bakers are requested to bring their treats to Assumption church by 10 a.m. the day of the BCMP meal.

FAMILY PROMISE

We served 3 families (5 adults and 3 children). Thank you to all the volunteers! Thank you to the CTS Confirmation students who provided meal kits and Godly Play kids who wrote notes to the families. Jean Beckman provided beautiful afghans. Bellingham Friends - Mimi and Virginia and CTS members, Veronica Hains and Linda Bahr, also provided meal kits. Tom & Colleen Jerns provided beautiful flowers for the families. Thank you to Ardelle Gronquist for her caring support to one woman in the program. Thank you to Michele and Rick Gordon who continue to support this meaningful assistance to all the families. Our next date to serve is November 6th.

GARDENVIEW TINYHOMES VILLAGE

The cooks and cookie bakers of CTS have been busy! Meals continue to arrive twice a month at Gardenview where they are fully appreciated.

On September 10, Gardenview was one of the sites for the “God’s Work, Our Hands” day projects. We had a great turnout of volunteers – about 10 people. We got a lot of weed-eating and clipping done, laid down grip tape to prevent slips and falls, and cleaned and hauled away the shopping carts. They have a lot more projects to get done there. If you feel like doing some handy-person work, call Holly Whittle at 360-201-7608 and she will help you get connected with the village to help out with projects.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS SUNDAY

We accomplish so much when we work together for others in need. Thank you to all the CTS members and friends who participated! We deeply appreciate the leadership of Pastor Jana, Kristin Doud, Mike Hess, Nicole Pridachuk, and Bonnie Drewes for giving us the opportunity to serve together.

Native Americans and the Church: Working Towards Truth and Healing

On **Saturday, October 14th**, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Kirkland will welcome Vance Blackfox, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, and the ELCA director for Indigenous ministries and tribal relations. He will be leading a one-day seminar about the history and struggles of Native American peoples, as well as conversations around working towards healing relationships with indigenous peoples and learning from them about their relationship to Mother Earth. The seminar will be from 9am-2pm and will include lunch. This event is open to the entire synod – all are welcome! We are asking for a donation of \$25 per person, but scholarships are available, so don’t let cost dissuade you from coming!

<https://www.hslckirkland.org/>

Chosen Retreat: A Study in God's People-Creating Project

Sat, Sept 23, 9am-4pm, at Our Saviors Lutheran, Everett. Taught by Dr. Michael Chan

From the time of Abraham and Sarah, God has been creating and fashioning a people with an important purpose in this world. Born out of barrenness and liberation, the people of God have been on a long journey marked by promise, peril, and tragedy. This event invites you to consider how God's ongoing work to shape a

people continues in your own lives and ministry contexts. Whether you are new to Scripture or a seasoned Bible reader, this day will bring you new insight and inspiration for growing closer to the God who chooses people for a life of calling and connection.

Themes of the 5 segments of the Retreat:

- Barrenness and Promise: Abraham and Sarah
- Bondage and Liberation: Exodus
- A People under Covenant: Exodus-Numbers (the Sinai covenant)
- A People in the Shadow of Defeat: 2 Kings 23-25, Jeremiah
- Returning and Rebuilding: Isaiah 56-66, Ezra-Nehemiah, Haggai-Zechariah

<https://www.lutheransnw.org/events/live-retreat-chosen>

ELCA Truth & Healing Movement (elca.org/indigenous)

The ELCA's [Truth & Healing Movement](https://www.elca.org/indigenous) is an opportunity for this church to increase our understanding of our colonizing impacts on Indigenous people in the past and present. Over the next several months, there will be opportunities to learn, raise awareness and engage in other ways to impact hearts and lives across this church. We believe that the truth, and our knowing and embracing it, is the first step toward healing for all of us.

Crossways Bible Study

Ever had reading the entire Bible on your bucket list? Let Crossways and Pastor Mike Anderson be your guide. This two-year program, hosted by Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, begins October 1 with Genesis, and will include pre-recorded lectures sent on Sundays to your email address to be watched at your leisure. Optional Thursday evening Zoom discussions will follow each lecture's release. The course is academic in nature and works well for those with or without Bible background. Click on the following link to register and to read endorsements from: Kathryn Buffum, Red Burchfield, Rena Connell, and Rebecca Langholz.

www.hslckirkland.org/crossways

Please remember as you pray

Our congregation and Pastor Jana as we build new relationships.

Cindy Petersen dealing with acute back pain.

Carol Ham and Christy Ham as they mourn the death of their husband and father, Bob.

Ron Ward facing medical treatments and recovery; and for his wife, **Troy-Faith Ward**.

Steve Clancy, the father of Brenna Sebens, for continued healing.

Shalom Shreve, friend of David Westerlund, who has Stage 4 colon cancer that has spread to her lungs. For her family, Chris, Scarlet, and Enoch.

Leeza, daughter in law of Rick and Michele Gordon, that her transplanted kidney, showing signs of rejection, responds to treatment.

Matt and Sydnee Henson as they work through chemotherapy treatments for stage 4 metastatic cancer of the pancreas.

Kori Fish and her family as they mourn the death of her mother.

Mary Ann Merrill and her family, as they mourn the death of her father, Richard and her sister, Jennifer.

Kathy Dooley and her family as they mourn the death of her mother, Jean Peters.

Mary Ann Merrill's mother, Marilyn, as she deals with age-related struggles.

Bobbi Bristol-Treat, for continued healing.

Nathaniel and the **One Parish One Prisoner team**.

Baker Ennen, as she struggles with Crohn's Disease, For her family and care team.

Jon Ross, son-in-law of Doug and Char Sutton, as he battles long Covid.

John Rietz's daughter and her partner during her partner's MS treatments.

Philip Christey, for heart health.

Amy Raduege enduring intense nerve pain, hoping for effective medical treatment.

Thanksgiving for "**Jeff's House**", and for the new residents.

Our friends in La Mica, Honduras, and their water project.

Our neighbors at Gardenview Village.

Carol Ebergson on comfort care.

And our members residing at local Senior Living or care centers: **Shirley Abt, Barbara Anderson, Joan Biasini, Carol Ham, Ruthann Jensen, Sophie Mueller, and Anita Stoffer.**

Serving Sunday September 17	
Presider	Pastor Jana Schofield
Reader	Donna Grubbs Bentley Sebens
Cantor	Veronica Hains
Pianist	Cindy Henninger
Reminder Calls	BJ Pratum
Communion Care	Sarah Satre
Communion Servers	Claudia Ackerman Sidney Evans
Sound Livestream	Rachel Budelsky Connie Clement
Ushers	BJ Pratum Kirstin Doud
Prayer Partner	David Westerlund
Children's Chapel	Tiffany Nangle Meredith Cratsenberg

Childcare Staff

Sierra Marshall
Kai Pridachuk