

EASTSIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH COMMUNITY
Stakeholder Meeting
April 11, 2026

We held an ELCC Stakeholder meeting for the ELCC on Saturday, April 11 at Saint Luke's Lutheran Church. There were approximately 16 people there representing Saint Luke's, Saint Andrew's, Cross of Christ, Sammamish Hills, Mount Si, Our Savior, and Holy Trinity.

The pastors in attendance spoke about how our collective effort has positively impacted our ministries. Specifically, they mentioned joint Confirmation classes, mission trips, Vacation Bible School, and joint worship services.

We reviewed progress in our four areas of focus:

- 1) **Local Community Service:** Nadine Bentsen (Cross of Christ) shared that their group have met several times already and there is a great deal of interest and engagement. They have cataloged the various ways the ELCC churches are working within our local community. There is a keen interest in coming together to serve the various organizations and causes that we share. They hope to coordinate an "All Service Day" where all ELCC members can participate.
- 2) **Mission Trips:** Jean Wahlstrom (SALC) spoke about the effort to identify the mission work already underway within the ELCC churches. It is hoped that increasing communication about those trips within the ELCC can encourage more participation. It is recognized that being invited to another church's mission opportunity is not the same as having a mission trip sponsored by the ELCC. Further exploration will take place to identify the best next steps.
- 3) **Small Group Ministry:** Pastor Mark (Saint Luke's) and Tom Getzinger (SALC) volunteered to lead this effort. Unfortunately, neither one of them was able to attend our meeting, so we did not get an update on this. There was a consensus that there is a great deal of opportunity in pursuing this work.
- 4) **Music:** No leader has been identified to work on this area of focus, so little has been accomplished since our last meeting in January. Carolynn will meet with Dr. Will Simpson (Director of Music Ministries at Saint Andrew's) to see what might be possible with his involvement.

Beth Boylan of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church attended our meeting for the first time. She shared that very little information had been provided within her church about the ELCC. Carolynn Ferris (SALC) offered to visit with Holy Trinity Council or the congregation to talk about ELCC and invite them to become a part of the organization.

We talked about how important Communication is for everyone. There is an ELCC Newsletter that is published every month or so, but more work needs to be done to broaden our efforts. It was also discussed that there are costs associated with a quality communication program and we need to figure out a way to support that. Bill Brueggemann (SALC / ELCC Treasurer) volunteered to look

more closely at what it will take to build out and sustain our communication work. We will then sort out how ELCC will cover the associated costs.

Our next ELCC Stakeholder meeting will be held on **Saturday, July 11** at **Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church**. Church Council / Trustees are strongly encouraged to attend, but EVERYONE is invited to join the discussion to share ideas and connect with fellow ELCC members.