EASTSIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH COMMUNITY
Stakeholder Meeting Notes
October 10, 2026
Saint Luke's Lutheran Church

Attendees: Pastor Mark Griffith (Saint Luke's), Carolynn Ferris (Saint Andrews), Nadine Bentson (Cross of Christ), Sterling Bentson (Cross of Christ), Beth Boylan (Holy Trinity), Gail D'Alessio (Cross of Christ), Jean Wahlstrom (Saint Andrews), Cheri Neill (Saint Luke's), , Courtney Bailey (Saint Luke's), Jack Boller (Mount Si)

Pastor Mark updated us on some of the discussions taking place with the ELCC pastors.

- The Joint Service in August was well attended and seemed to be enjoyed by all. The organization of the potluck by Pastor Nyla was very much appreciated.
- The pastors are continuing to seek out ways to work more collaboratively. It is hoped that eventually greater teamwork and division of labor can help to ease the workloads of the pastors rather than add to it.
- Conference congregations will gather for the first Sunday in Advent for an evening service.
- Working collaboratively with conference leaders to create a Lenten devotional
- Any interest from other congregations in sharing purchasing quilting batting?

Carolynn suggested that we try to have another joint service sometime during the program year. Likely venues would be Saint Andrews or Cross of Christ as their buildings and parking lots can accommodate the most people. Pastor Mark will discuss this with the other rostered leaders.

We also talked about asking Bishop Wee and Rick Steves come to speak to the ELCC. Their program has been very popular and would likely draw many people. Maybe after the proposed joint service???

Pastor Mark brought up the Clean Building Act that the State of Washington recently updated. It requires buildings that are greater than 20,000 square feet to accomplish and document the following:

- Benchmark energy usage
- Develop an operation and maintenance program
- Develop an energy management plan
- Meet energy performance metrics

Reporting is currently due by July 1, 2027.
Arlys Kruse (Saint Luke's) worked in the building controls industry and is willing to pass along pertinent information to other churches if requested.

Pastor Mark brought up the idea of establishing a cohort of ELCC office administrators. Getting them connected would likely be very beneficial for all involved. Perhaps getting them all together for lunch might be a great way to start.

Gail D'Alessio shared that Pastor Dave of Cross of Christ hosts a happy hour at a local pub. He calls it "Clink". It is a great way to connect with parishioners in fun and unique way.

ELCC LOCAL SERVICE COHORT

This group has been meeting fairly regularly for the last several months. The current project is to create "move-in" baskets for the men from Porchlight that are moving to apartments. The participants are enjoying getting to know one another.

Carolynn asked if the group would consider creating move-in baskets with quilts for those eventually moving into Forest Edge, the affordable housing project planned to be built on Saint Andrew's property. It is a 100-unit project with studio, 1 bedroom, 2 bedroom, and 3 bedroom units. Completion date is likely in late 2028. Carolynn will contact Imagine Housing to confirm the number and size of quilts that might be needed. She will also reach out to Diane Chong who is head of the quilting group at Saint Andrews. It is hoped that Diane might be willing to coordinate with other quilters in the ELCC to take on this project. There are some quilting groups that have been able to purchase batting at a reduced cost. Allowing the various ELCC quilting groups to connect with one another might allow others to benefit from the greater buying power.

Beth Boylan shared that there is an effort underway to have a work party on behalf of Habitat for Humanity at the former Holy Cross site in Factoria. It is tagged, "The House that Faith Built". We believe this might be a great opportunity for ELCC to engage in volunteer work.

Beth also shared that there is an organization based in Issaquah called "The Circle". This group provides support to immigrant families – particularly those who have lost loved ones due to an ICE action. We believe that many within the ELCC would appreciate being able to support the work of The Circle.

WORLD MISSION COHORT

Jean Wahlstrom shared her experience in going to Ensenada in Mexico. There were volunteers from several churches with a wide range of ages participating. Lantern Hill is a tutoring program that also provides meals for their students. It has had great success in encouraging students to continue their studies into high school and beyond.

Jean also talked about the need to develop a 10-year mission plan. We know that many of the ELCC churches support various mission trips, but they are currently not coordinated. It would be very impactful if a calendar could be built that includes all of the potential mission trips with a cadence that allows people to plan ahead and participate as they are able.

ELCC COMMUNICATION

Courtney talked about the ELCC Newsletter which is published every month. She stressed the need to get information for the newsletter – particularly any events planned that could include people from all of the congregations. She passed out a flyer with information on how to submit potential articles.

It was suggested that these flyers could be shared with Committee chairpersons within the ELCC churches so they know how to spread the word about their work and any events that are planned.

FUTURE ELCC MEETING

The next ELCC Stakeholder meeting has been scheduled for **Saturday, January 9** at Saint Andrews Lutheran Church. The SALC Family Resource Room has been reserved. Meeting will start at 10:00 and go on no longer than 12:00.

It is hoped we can begin to meet again with some regularity so we can continue to build connections and engage effectively and with purpose.