

November 2025

## Fall Book Sale: Nov. 7-9

The annual Fall Used Book Sale is here! Come browse new-to-you books, puzzles, games, and more at bargain prices! The sale will run on **Friday and Saturday, Nov. 7 & 8**, from 9:00am - 3:30pm, with a last chance sale on Sunday, Nov. 9 during coffee hour. Cash is preferred, but we will also accept debit and credit cards (with a \$5 minimum purchase).

The proceeds of this year's sale will once again benefit both the Men's Group and Outreach Committee. Spread the word and plan to stock up on lots of great new reads to support the work of these two wonderful ministries.

You still have time to get in your donations! If you've got gently used books, puzzles, games, DVDs or CDs, we will gladly take them anytime between now and Thursday, Nov. 6. We're also looking for small, sturdy boxes to pack up the leftovers on Sunday.

If you have any questions or need to arrange a pick-up for your donations, please contact Rachel Loer in the church office at [admin@allsaintsrichland.org](mailto:admin@allsaintsrichland.org).



## Special Outreach Meeting: Budget Priorities for 2026

All parish members are welcome to attend Outreach meetings, whether they are considering joining, want to bring a community need to our attention, or are simply curious. Most meetings are held via Zoom at 7 PM on the first Monday of each month; simply contact the office if you would like to be sent the Zoom link.

In November, however, we will be holding a second meeting, which is so important that we decided to hold it in person. For the past few years, our income has been steadily decreasing. Although we have been discussing ways we might increase our income, we also realize that we simply cannot support all the organizations we've been supporting as generously as we have in the past. Where we do give, we want to be able to give enough money to make a difference...so, it will be necessary to discontinue our support of some other organizations.

**At 2pm on Thursday, Nov. 6**, the Outreach Committee will be meeting in the church library to discuss budget priorities for 2026. All interested parish members are welcome to take part in this conversation.

## Rector's Corner

This month we continue another tradition at All Saints' - one that is not on the liturgical calendar. November 23 is "Ingathering Sunday:" the culmination of our annual Pledge Drive, when each household is encouraged to make a formal commitment to be part of the mission and ministry of All Saints' in "time, talent, and treasure" for the coming year.

Pledge drives are a common thing. Nonprofit organizations of all sorts depend on donors to be able to fund what they do. And many of them do laudable work in our community and around the world. They improve lives for many people, in ways large and small.

Here in the church, we strive to be something different, something deeper. When we say our mission is "equipping the saints to seek and serve Christ in all people," we mean to be a conduit for

healing and strengthening hearts and souls in Jesus' name. We don't always fully reach that ideal (we are human, after all!), but that is our goal and our purpose.

Each Sunday for the next few weeks, parishioners will share reflections on their faith—ways they've followed Jesus, or experienced God's love, or noticed the Holy Spirit's presence—and how All Saints' community has been part of that. They'll talk about their practices of giving, and the ways it makes a difference in their own lives as well as those who receive. Elizabeth Arnold, All Saints' treasurer, is the first to share her story; you will find it directly below this article.

Everyone's story is different, because there is no limit to the ways that God can work in and through our hearts, minds, and souls. And yet, they all share this in common: a reminder that our giving is about far more than keeping lights on or mending the roof. It's a profound witness to the power and the promise of the Gospel—the Good News of God's love for each and every human being, in a world that desperately needs it.

God's peace,  
Jane+

## Reflection: Why I Give

Those of you who remember our former curate, Shanna, probably remember her saying: "We make church together." That is something that has stuck with me, and I find myself remembering it as we approach pledge ingathering.

Church services are beautiful, but I am not buying a ticket to a performance.

The activities of this congregation are wonderful, but I am not paying membership dues to a social organization.

Church is a community, and community is not a spectator sport. It isn't just a matter of many hands making light work (though that is very true!). This is a family in which everyone shares in the work and

the joys. We need each other. This church that we make together would be weaker without any one of us.

I give and work and pray, because this is my home and I share the responsibility for its upkeep and growth. I give and work and pray, because I want upcoming generations to be able to find Jesus here the way I have.

*About the Author: Elizabeth Arnold has been attending All Saints' for a few years and helps out as treasurer and with the youth group.*

## Adult Formation

Through most of November we'll continue delving into "Transforming Questions." This is a course designed to help both new Christians and longtime churchgoers move into deeper life in Christ. Over the course of these sessions, participants engage some basic questions of the Christian faith through a combination of teaching and conversation.

Then we close out the month by moving into Advent! On November 30, the first Sunday of Advent, we will continue our practice of offering the opportunity to make Advent Wreaths, for devotional use in our home. In addition, we will begin a 4-part series called "A Child Is Born: A Beginner's Guide to Nativity Stories." With New Testament scholar Amy-Jill Levine, we will delve into the fascinating connections between ancient birth stories (Isaac & Ishmael, Samson, and Samuel) and the Nativity of Jesus, to reveal how they foreshadow and enrich the timeless Christmas story in the final chapter.

Grab a cup of coffee or tea and join us most weeks in the library at 9:15am. You'll be glad you did!

- Nov 2: "Why do bad things happen?"
- Nov 9: "Where do we go when we die?"
- Nov 16: "Why do I need a church?"
- Nov 23: "Where do we go from here?"
- Nov 30: "A Child is Born: the Children of Abraham" & Advent Wreaths

## Children and Youth Ministries: November 2025

**Godly Play!** It is never too late to join our Sunday School classes, and friends and visitors are always welcome! Godly Play meets at 9 AM Sunday mornings in the Godly Play classroom, and is for students in preschool and elementary school.

Our stories this month are:

- Nov. 2—The Story of Rahab
- Nov. 9—The Ark and Tent
- Nov. 16—The Story of Ruth
- Nov. 23—The Ark and Temple
- Nov. 30—No class—make Advent wreaths!

**Youth Class.** Youth in middle and high school meet on Sunday mornings in the loft from 9 to 10 AM. They have recently dubbed their group, “Donuts With Jesus”—join them on Sunday mornings to eat donuts and talk about Jesus. They are currently studying the Book of Acts, one chapter at a time. Friends are always welcome!

**Youth Group, Saturday, November 22, 10:00 AM set-up, 12:00 to 2:30 PM Tea.** Our Youth Group gathering this month will be hosting the Youth-Senior Tea! Our young people in grades 6 through 12 will be joining elder members of our parish for an afternoon of conversation, crafts, and refreshments! This has become a beloved event enjoyed by all ages. The youth will be setting up and preparing for the Tea beginning at 10:00 AM, with our guests arriving at noon.

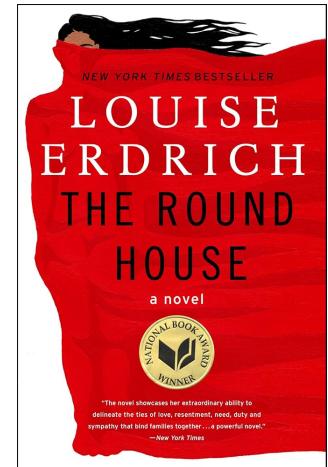
Invitations will be going out in early November, but if you would like to attend the Tea and do not receive an invite, please call the church office to be added.



## All Saints' Book Group

Our next book to read is ***The Round House***, a 2012 novel by Louise Erdrich. This book follows 13-year-old Joe Coutts, as he seeks justice for his mother after she is brutally attacked on an Ojibwa reservation in North Dakota. His mother is traumatized and reluctant to speak about the incident. Joe, along with his father and friends, tries to help by finding the attacker.

The Round House has been called “an artfully balanced mystery, thriller and coming-of-age story” (*Minneapolis Star Tribune*), and was the Winner of the National Book Award for Fiction in 2012.



We will meet to discuss this book on **Tuesday, Nov. 4** beginning with a potluck at 6pm in the parish hall. Please join us! All are welcome. Contact Theresa at [school@allsaintsrichland.org](mailto:school@allsaintsrichland.org) if you would like to get on the Book Group list.

## B4: Building Bridges Between Believers

“B4” is a year-long program seeking to combine monthly opportunities for learning and spiritual practice, with small group connections and mutual prayer. We hope to develop connections with one another as we learn to recognize the connections between our lives and work and the roots of our faith.

In November, our theological focus will be “the Authority of Scripture,” and we’ll look at ways we read the Bible in prayer. All are welcome to join the monthly large group meeting, even if you don’t participate in a small group. Please join us on **Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 6pm** for dinner. We’d love to see you there!

## Volunteer with the ELC

The Early Learning Center in Richland (next to Jefferson Elementary) has a new outreach ministry that is in need of volunteers. Each Thursday, they are getting a load of food from Second Harvest, for free, to give to families of the Early Learning Center. The truck comes about 10:00 or 10:30am, is unloaded, and then families are able to come in and “shop” through 3pm (a little after when school is out). ELC is looking for community volunteers that might be able to come either help set up, or help families as they come in and shop; you do not need to be there the entire time. More specific information will be given at the ELC.

This is a new donation from Second Harvest, and is still being worked out, but right now, ELC employees are overseeing this, and have asked us for a little help, if possible. Because it is during school hours, you will need to be approved as a school district volunteer, including background check; the application is at <https://www.rsd.edu/community/volunteer>.

Contact Theresa Grate for more information.

## Saints and Sinners

Saints and Sinners will once again meet in the parish hall at All Saints' on **Friday, Nov. 21**. A social hour at 6pm will be followed by a potluck dinner at 7. This time Jeanie and Ted Scott and Kathy and Paul Meyer will be hosting — Thank you all. The event is open to all adults of the parish.



Fun at the October gathering of Saints and Sinners

Couples please bring either a main dish or two of the following: starter, salad, side dish or dessert. Singles bring one of these. Also, please bring your own table services and a \$5 donation if you would like wine.

You can sign up the Sunday before in the narthex or call or text Linda Munson to let her know you are coming. (Cell is 509-521-8981) You can come without a reservation but you may have to help set up additional tables and chairs. There is lots of room.

November is the time we decide what we would like to do with the excess funds we have collected over the year so please bring your ideas and we will vote. We will have an announcement of the amount of funds we are talking about before the vote. It will probably be less than next year as we started this partway through the year and also bought tablecloths and a wine opener from our collections. We hope to see you all there.

## Outreach Focus for November: Warm Coats & Clothes

During November, the Outreach Committee is collecting warm coats, along with other warm clothing, hats, and gloves to be given to a variety of local organizations.



Adult coats and warm clothing will go to Noah's Ark, the homeless shelter in Wapato. Young children's coats, hats, and gloves will go to the Early Learning Center, with larger coats going to Coats for Kids. And warm hats and gloves for adults will go into our upcoming Blessing Bags, to be packed in January.

Bring all your warm items, new or gently used, to the box in the narthex, and Outreach will get them to the people who need them most. Thank you!

## Jr. Warden's Report

We hope to have the security system on the pavilion and some other IT stuff done shortly. The landscaping contractor will be constructing a raised bed along the turf side to decrease the falling hazard and provide an opportunity for landscaping. He also has some work to do in the memorial garden.

Curbing has been placed between the parking lot and the lawn and planting areas in several places, and we have taken one parking place for a shade tree to shade the bench where parents sit to watch their kids on the playground. We will probably put a bicycle rack in the remainder of this place. Other maintenance and improvements are in the works, weather permitting.

## Thanksgiving Service

Before you gather around a table and slice the turkey, you are invited to a celebration of Holy Eucharist with your All Saints' family on Thanksgiving, **Thursday, Nov. 27, at 10am**. Let's give thanks to God for all the blessings in our lives.



A reminder: the office will be closed on Thanksgiving. Send an email or leave a phone message and we'll get back to you the following Monday. Happy Thanksgiving, y'all!

## Advent Work Day is Coming!

The many volunteers who helped Altar Guild prepare the church for Palm Sunday and Easter played a vital behind-the-scenes role in worship last spring. You have an opportunity to assist the Altar Guild again, as we prepare for Advent and the Christmas season.

Our Advent work day is scheduled for **Saturday, Nov. 29, starting at 1pm**. Duties may include bringing decorations down from the loft, setting up



the creche, polishing brass or silver, etc. Drop-ins will be welcome, but you'll help us plan if you sign up in advance. Look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex on November 16 and 23.

## Advent-in-a-Bag

We are again offering Advent-in-a-Bag to anyone who would like some materials for observing Advent at Home this year. This year, the bags will contain materials for making Jesse Tree ornaments, and we are asking people to decorate the ornament in your bag and bring it back to church to hang on our Jesse Tree.

The bags will be ready November 23, and can be picked up at All Saints' that Sunday, or we can deliver to your door during the week. Call or email the office if you would like us to deliver an Advent-in-a-Bag to you.

## Advent Wreaths Nov. 30

We will be making Advent Wreaths after both services on this first Sunday of Advent - open to all ages! Come make a wreath to take home (one per household). We will provide the forms and candles (bring in your form from a previous year if you have one, extra candles will be available).

**Cuttings of FRESH greens are needed**, so bring some to share if you have them. Donations of greens will be taken that Sunday (November 30), please cut them fresh so they will last through Advent. A nice variety of greens are good to use in making the wreaths.

The materials will be out in the parish hall after both services for people to make their wreaths. (There are no Sunday school classes this day.)



## Kitchen Angels Needed

Looking for a way to serve that can be done on your schedule and doesn't require a big time commitment? Being a Kitchen Angel may be perfect for you. Kitchen Angels check the church's kitchen to make sure everything's clean & tidy and if needed they put the dishes away.

The task takes anywhere from 15-45 minutes, and you only need to do it once during the week you're assigned. You can do it anytime during your week. If you're interested in learning more, please contact Kim Kremer at [kmkremer@gmx.com](mailto:kmkremer@gmx.com) or 509-251-9353.



## Prayer Angels

*Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.*

Ephesians 6:18

Did you know there are Prayer Angels who pray every day for All Saints' members, families, and friends with a long-term illness or other struggles? If you would like prayers said daily for you, a family member, or a friend, please give Marjie Mack the name, relationship to you, and specifically how you would like us to pray for that person.

This information is held confidential within the Prayer Angels group. You can reach Marjie at [mmack3108@comcast.net](mailto:mmack3108@comcast.net).

## We Give Thanks...

- to the Youth Group for packing candy bags for Halloween, painting pumpkins for parishioners, and making sugar skulls for Day of the Dead.
- to all the parishioners who donated to the Youth during the recent car wash! They collected a total of \$488 that day, and with a little extra from their savings, they sent \$250 to Second Harvest



for the Bite2Go program at the ELC, and \$250 to Sacred Heart Children's Hospital in Spokane.

- to Bill Powell for repairing a few cabinet doors in the multi-purpose room.
- to Linda Munson and Bruce Schmoetzer for their tireless work on the lock-changing and pavilion projects!
- to Colin Berry and Caleb Thomas and their Scout Troop for painting the stripes in the parking lot.
- to Rachel Loer and Dan Rowland for their help, above and beyond their duties, in dealing with water intrusion in the nursery, and to Rachael Black for helping to trace the problem and hopefully prevent further damage.
- to Paige Andrew for additional trimming and painting the sign posts on the welcome sign in front of the church.
- to Mike Dodson for painting yellow caution striping along the curbs of the sidewalks along the parking lot.
- to 3 Rivers Community Foundation for the generous grant to our Emergency Warming Shelter. We will be able to fund security personnel and new cots with the grant money.



Parish pup Tuxedo oversees the Scouts

## Special Update on Deacon Mark Sluss

As you probably know by now, a few months ago Deacon Mark Sluss was diagnosed with a form of acute leukemia. As a result, he needed to step back from his diaconal service in order to focus on the process of healing. In particular, he has been preparing for a stem cell transplant.

He now has a timeline! Dates may change depending on the speed of recovery, nature of any complications, etc; but he has given permission to share his projected schedule, which looks like this:



- Nov. 6:** Initial appointment at Fred Hutch Cancer Center, Seattle for 3 weeks of extensive testing and consultations
- Nov. 26:** Admitted to UW Medical Center for final round of chemotherapy
- Dec. 2:** Transplant Day! Followed by 3-4 weeks inpatient treatment and monitoring
- Dec. 24:** Released from hospital to nearby residence— must remain within 15-20 minutes of medical center for 100 days after transplant.
- Mar. 4:** Home to Richland

Many of you have asked how you can help support Mark. There are three possibilities:

First, of course, is to pray! Please hold Mark and his husband, Todd, in your prayers: for full healing of this disease; for strength and courage in the process; for peace and comfort to surround them throughout.

The second option is to help provide for their physical needs. The cost of treatment, on top of everyday expenses, is significant even with insurance coverage. And although someone has generously stepped forward to offer an apartment during Mark's stay in Seattle, living expenses for two households for 4 months is still a daunting reality. If you wish to help alleviate that financial stress, we have set up a designated sub-account under the umbrella of our parish Discretionary Fund. Checks may be made out to All Saints', with "Sluss Fund" in the memo line.

And third... The Cancer Center has made clear that once Mark is discharged in December, he will need a caregiver for his remaining time in Seattle. However, Todd will still be working here in Richland for much of the time; this is necessary to maintain benefits and insurance coverage. So they will need alternative caregivers— not responsible for any medical care or treatment, but to serve as a companion, to run errands, and to provide transport back and forth to the hospital as needed.

The good news is, that need not be the same person for the entire 2-3 months! Our hope is that we can put together a "caregiver rotation," with people willing and able to stay with Mark for a day, a few days, a week or longer as they are able. Please contact Rev. Jane if this would be a possibility for you; she is hoping to set up a schedule of volunteers who can fill this need.