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# NEWS YOU CAN USE

Steel Lake Presbyterian Church  
March 2017 ENewsletter

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## About Us

For more information about this ENewsletter and Steel Lake Presbyterian Church, please visit our [website](#).

## Pastor's Blog In Between the Lines

“I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 NRSV

Just as God commissioned Joshua with this call to the Promised Land, so God calls us toward our future location. Remember that the context of this Word comes right after the death of Moses. Our context is much less traumatic...I'm no Moses and I'm not expecting to kick the bucket yet!

I love this Word of the Lord because of the emphasis on courage and trust. The Israelites were called to trust the Lord. God knew where they were going even if they didn't know it at the time.

This is precisely where we find ourselves today. Elder John Elting's detailed status report in this issue of News You Can Use, helpfully narrates how God has opened doors earlier than we imagined. Can you believe we are at this point of our journey? Do you trust

that the Lord is leading us through our elders? I'm so glad you do!

We know the happy ending of the Joshua story with the Israelites. While they came through many trials and temptations, the Lord ultimately led them to a land flowing with "milk and honey." I'm equally certain that God has our permanent site in mind and that our leadership will be led by the Lord to find it!

Now I want you to do something for me. Write down the date, April 23, 2017, and the time of 10.00 a.m. This is our special celebration of our ministry in this place. Everyone needs to receive God's gracious, "Amen!" in recognition of all the support for this building and its ministry. We will celebrate with those who joined when we built the first building along with partners who stood by us every step of the way.

I also need you to pray for our future. Pray for a closing of the sale which benefits buyer and seller alike. Pray for a successful signing of a temporary contract for a place where we will temporarily worship while looking for a permanent site. Finally, pray for a permanent location which will help us complete our missional outreach into the community of Federal Way and the world. If you do these things the scripture will be fulfilled...

"For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful." Joshua 1:8c NRSV.

With love, excitement and appreciation,

Pastor Will



### **Status Report on the Sale of the Steel Lake Property:**

Since the October 2016 congregational meeting in which the members of Steel Lake voted to approve Session's recommendation that the church building and property be listed for sale, God's hand has been almost disconcertingly apparent in the sales process and in the people within and outside our church.

Following our initial meeting with our realtors, we understood that the sales process would likely take nine to twelve months, and that by May or June of 2017 seriously interested parties would hopefully emerge. God had a different schedule: by the end of December, there were three interested congregations touring the facility and we had already received one preliminary offer to purchase the property. Tours of the facility continued into January, with yet another possible buyer materializing.

Our asking price of \$3.85 million was based on advice from our realtors, with the thought that we would likely garner final bids somewhere between \$3.0 and \$3.4 million. The two best offers received at the end of

January were each \$3.75 million. God was there with us in this, too.

The Holy Spirit has been visibly moving within the congregation, as well, since our difficult decision to sell the building. Members and friends are witnessing to their increasing optimism and trust that God's plan for us is not even close to being over. That faith in God's providence for us was evident on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, when the congregation voted unanimously to approve the following motion:

*"That the Congregation of Steel Lake Presbyterian Church approve and recommend to the Presbytery of Seattle the sale of the Steel Lake Presbyterian Church property, including all facilities and land, to the First Ukrainian Baptist Church of Federal Way, for the net sale price of \$3,750,000.00."*

Based on our congregation's vote and excited about our mission, the Seattle Presbytery voted unanimously to approve the sale of the property at a special called meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. After the vote, people from other churches expressed to us their interest in our mission and the fact that we are proactively dealing with our building, as they have many of the same issues. Lina Thompson, the pastor at Lake Burien Presbyterian, wanted to be sure that our congregation heard that 'their session was inspired by what Steel Lake is doing and that they are both praying for our success and considering a similar path themselves.' What we are doing isn't invisible, and God is with us in it.

As has been mentioned, no sale is truly over until the "closing" occurs (the current closing date for our sale is April 19<sup>th</sup>). The Ukrainian church is in the midst of their feasibility study and obtaining financing. This is a very big move for them, and one they are approaching

with rightful due diligence. Please pray for the successful completion of their processes and for their commitment to finalizing the purchase. Also, continue to pray for a smooth transition for us to our “temporary housing”, likely at Calvary Lutheran Church, and for our eventual move to a right-sized permanent facility which will support and facilitate our mission. And most of all, please pray for one another as we pack up our canvas and poles together and move our church down God’s road to our next calling.

Folks, our loving God has been, and continues to be, with us each step of our way. Praise God!

Elder John Elting



## Monthly Financial Update \$\$\$\$

January 31, 2017

Income:	\$44,676
Expenses:	\$46,895
Net Income (Loss)	<b>(\$2,219)</b>

Average Worship Attendance  
through November: 77

The number of attendees include Madrona Park East and Foundation House worships.

If you have any questions or would like to see a more detailed report, please contact Sandra Ervin in the church office.

For your information, the Per Capita charged SLPC for each member for 2017 is \$40.00

Thank you for your support of this Presbytery fee.

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**Service on March 1st at 12:00 p.m.**

The observance of Ash Wednesday dates back to at least the 8<sup>th</sup> century. Originally, Lent began on a Sunday. But in order to bring the number of days of Lent to forty (the number of days Jesus fasted in the wilderness), the beginning of Lent was eventually changed to a Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday is based on the biblical concept of repentance and the ashes that are associated with repentance. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent (the forty day period before Easter). On Ash Wednesday, the ashes are blessed, mixed with water or oil, and then the pastor or priest imposes the ashes on the foreheads of the people, while making the sign of the cross. The ashes are made from the burned palm branches from the Palm Sunday of the previous year.

The ashes serve a dual purpose. First, we are reminded of our mortality and humanity as we begin Lent. Secondly, the ashes are a biblical symbol of repentance and humility. There are many references in scripture to wearing ashes as a sign of penitence, often while wearing sackcloth. (2 Samuel 13:19, Esther 4:1-3 and Jeremiah 6:26)

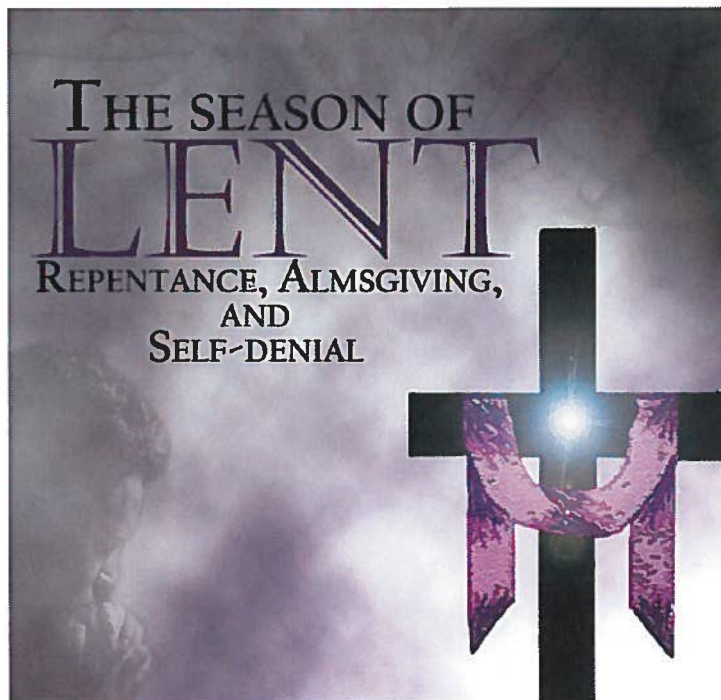
This year we will celebrate Ash Wednesday on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Making the sign of the cross on the forehead is actually a tradition for both Protestants and Catholics. This ashen cross is a visible reminder of our need for repentance and forgiveness.

#### ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER

Dear Lord, I feel the ashes of mortality upon my heart. Give me the courage to acknowledge them. Lord Jesus, give me the eyes to see my need for forgiveness. Help me to be worthy of the sign of the cross. Forgive my sins and bring me closer to you. Amen.

Kathy Murphy, Worship Committee

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*Lent is the season of 40 days which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. The word "Lent" comes from the Anglo Saxon word "lencten" which means "spring". Taken literally, it means that this is the time of the year when the days lengthen. The forty days represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness enduring the temptations of Satan and preparing to begin His ministry.*

*Purple is the color associated with Lent. It is a solemn color and reminds us of royalty and repentance. Lent is a time of spiritual self-examination and reflection. Lent can be viewed as a spiritual spring cleaning: a time for taking spiritual inventory and then cleaning out those things which hinder our corporate and personal relationships with Jesus Christ and our service to Him.*

*There are a few basic disciplines which have been a traditional part of the Lenten experience. These disciplines are: fasting, almsgiving, prayer and reading of scripture. The concept of Lent: a time for "taking on" spirituality instead of "giving up" temptation, has gained in popularity in recent years. Lent is an opportunity to devote more time to prayer,*



*Bible study and charitable pursuits, which can be a life-altering commitment.*

*Lent prepares us for the coming of Christ into the world as our risen Savior. Lent can be an intentional striving to enter into a time of personal introspection and can be combined with communal reflection and outreach. Our Lenten disciplines encourage us to prepare for the new life given to us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

## **Lenten Giving**

**March 1st thru April 16<sup>th</sup>**

Steel Lake Presbyterian Church will be collecting donations for the Federal Way Day Center. Bright pink donation box will be located in the Narthex (lobby) of the church.

The Federal Way Day Center provides homeless adults with showers, computer access, phone access, laundry service, case management and an open kitchen.

The following are items that are needed at the Day Center:

- Ø Non-perishable foods
- Ø Nail Clippers
- Ø Feminine Products
- Ø Napkins
- Ø Backpacks
- Ø Underwear (all sizes for men and women)
- Ø Dryer Sheets
- Ø Cloth reusable grocery bags
- Ø Bar Soap or Body Wash
- Ø Razors
- Ø Hair Brushes, Ties or Head bands
- Ø Shaving Cream
- Ø Socks (men and women)

- Ø Coffee Creamer (powder)
- Ø Zip-lock Bags (all sizes)
- Ø Deodorant (men and women)
- Ø Sweat Pants (all sizes for men and women)
- Ø Garbage Bags (30 gallon)
- Ø Liquid Laundry Soap (any size)
- Ø Sugar (big bag, not small packets)



**March 1st-**

*Ash Wednesday service at 12:00 p.m., Sanctuary*

**March 5th-**

*Sunday service with communion at 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary*

**April 2nd-**

*Renewal of Baptism and communion service at 10:00 a.m.,  
Sanctuary*

**April 9th-**

*Palm Sunday service with brunch after worship at 10:00  
a.m.*

**April 13th-**

*Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m.*

**April 16th-**

*Easter Sunday service at 10:00 a.m.*

**April 23rd-**

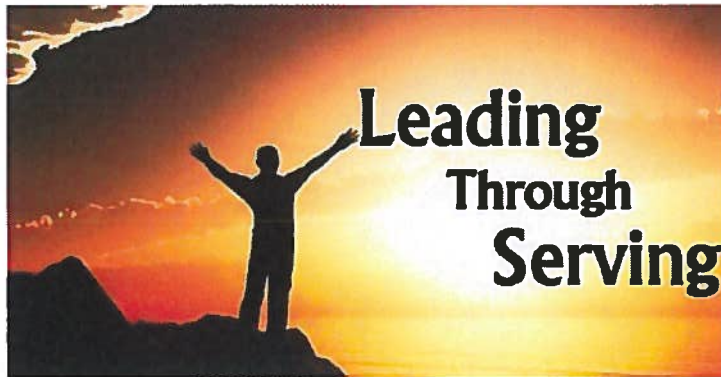
*"Celebration Sunday" service with fellowship after worship  
at 10:00 a.m.*

*Honoring our Steel Lake Ministry*

**April 30th-**

*No 10:00 a.m. service at SLPC*

*Service at Foundation House at 2:00 p.m., 32290 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. S.,  
Federal Way WA*



**Save the Date!**

**March 19th is "Meet Your Deacon" Sunday**

Please join us after worship for a coffee hour sponsored by your Board of Deacons. It is a great opportunity to meet your Deacon and fellow parish members face to face. The parishes for 2017 have been reorganized using the first letter of your last name as follows:

**A-B - Ann Maina**

**C & T-Z - Lynn Sommer**

**D - Linda Shaw**

**EFG - Sue Schaaf-Horath**

**HIJK - Janet Reinick**

**LMN - Cheryl Volheim**

**OPQR - Marilyn Gerhardt**

S - Donna Glasoe

Foundation House attendees - Cristy Verellen.



**Catholic Community Services** is seeking volunteers who are interested in serving alongside individuals who visit the Federal Way Day Center. Volunteers would be involved in monitoring the laundry machines and use of the showers. Volunteers would also be present in the kitchen area to assist as needed and a general warm and welcoming presence to all who enter. All volunteers would be under the direct supervision of CCS staff and receive orientation and ongoing training.

An application and background check are required. The hours of the Federal Way Day Center will be Monday-Friday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. If you have any questions or are interested in serving, please contact...

Sue Drake: cell: (253) 740-9630 or  
email: [sdrake531@comcast.net](mailto:sdrake531@comcast.net)

Whonakee King: Program Manager, Federal Way Day Center, Catholic Community Services: cell: (206) 549-4048 or email: [whonakeek@ccsww.org](mailto:whonakeek@ccsww.org)



**Federal Way Food Bank (MSC)** is in need of volunteers.

**We are looking for a few dedicated volunteers.**

Can you.....

Help register existing customers & new customers?

Have computer skills to help with check-in?

Drive a van?

Help load the van with donated food?

Sort and hang clothing?

Sort and bag food donations?

Come join our great team of volunteers.

Interested?

**Call Terri Turner at the Federal Way Food Bank (MSC)**

**253-838-6810**

**[territ@mschelps.org](mailto:territ@mschelps.org)**

## Calendar of Events



## March Schedule of Events

### **Wednesday, March 1:**

#### **Beginning of Lenten Giving donations**

*Ash Wednesday service- 12:00 p.m., Sanctuary*

*Communion Service- 1:00 p.m., Madrona Park East in FW*

### **Thursday, March 2:**

*Lectionary Bible Study- 1:00 p.m., Lakeside Room*

*AA Men's Group- 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall*

### **Sunday, March 5 :**

*Outreach Committee- After worship, Lakeside Room*

*Coffee Fellowship- After worship, Starkey Friendship Center*

*Madrona Park East worship- 2:00 p.m., Madrona Park in FW*

### **Monday, March 6:**

*Birthday Bunch- 11:30 a.m., location varies*

### **Tuesday, March 7:**

*Alzheimer's Support- 6:30 p.m., Pacific Room*

*Bell Choir Rehearsal- 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary*

*Church Choir Rehearsal- 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary*

### **Wednesday, March 8:**

*Ruth Circle- 12:00 p.m., Lou Olmstead residence*

*ROMEOS Lunch- 12:00 p.m., Black Bear Diner*

*Stewardship Committee- 3:00 p.m., Lakeside Room*

### **Thursday, March 9:**

*Lectionary Bible Study- 1:00 p.m., Lakeside Room*

*AA Men's Group- 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall*

### **Saturday, March 11:**

*AA Men's Annual Banquet- Starkey Friendship Center*

*SAMs Groucho Marx Performance- 7:30 p.m., Center Stage Theatre*

**Sunday, March 12:**

*Foundation House Worship/Communion- 2:00 p.m.,  
Foundation House*

**Tuesday, March 14:**

*Esther- Rachel Circle- 12:00 p.m., Gladys Johnson residence*

*Local Pastors Lunch- 12:00 p.m., location varies*

*Worship Committee- 3:00 p.m., Lakeside Room*

*Bell Choir Rehearsal- 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary*

*VFW Meets- 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall*

*Church Choir Rehearsal- 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary*

**Thursday, March 16:**

*Lectionary Bible Study- 1:00 p.m., Lakeside Room*

*AA Men's Group- 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall*

**Sunday, March 19:**

*Meet Your Deacons/Coffee- After worship, Starkey Friendship Center*

**Tuesday, March 21:**

*Bell Choir Rehearsal- 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary*

*Church Choir Rehearsal- 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary*

**Thursday, March 23:**

*Lectionary Bible Study- 1:00 p.m., Lakeside Room*

*AA Men's Group- 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall*

**Sunday, March 26:**

*Session Meeting- After worship, Lakeside Room*

*Foundation House Worship- 2:00 p.m., Foundation House*

**Tuesday, March 28:**

*Bell Choir Rehearsal- 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary*

*Church Choir Rehearsal- 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary*

**\*\*Every Sunday:**

*Christian Education- 9:00 a.m., Pacific Room*

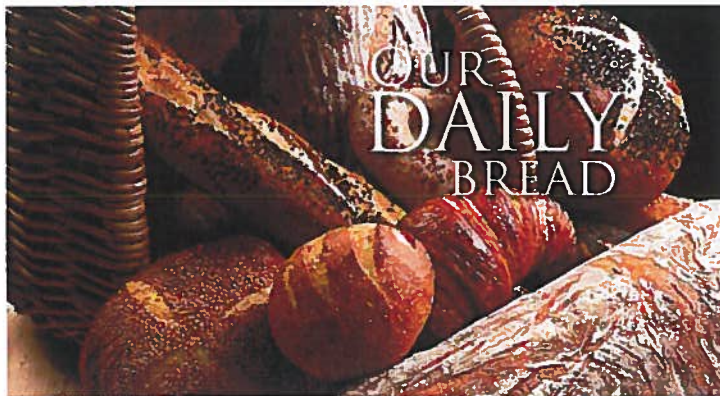
*Worship Service- 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary*

*City of Glory Worship- 3:00 p.m., City of Glory Worship Center*

**\*\*Every Monday:**

*Community Supper- 4:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall*

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"Our Daily Bread"

**Our Daily Bread**

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