

# St. Leo Social Justice Page

## St Leo Supportive Social Service

There was an anonymous note left in the Ye Olde Wooden Box last weekend that read, *“Hello! If there’s always a shortage of clothes and toiletries for those less fortunate, why isn’t part of the ES \$90,000 account balance being used to procure such items”?*

The answer to this anonymous statement is this: We have about \$1,000.00 currently earmarked for the Clothing Boutique clothing items and toiletries. However, I consider it prudent to continue to ask for in-kind donations and parishioner support of the Boutique. I want the major bulk of our social services financing to be ready and available to assist those who find themselves in crises related to difficult financial straits that jeopardize their housing, health, transportation and employment. Also, I cannot predict the future other than I fear that future times may even get worse for the *Less Fortunate*. A good reserve for the unpredictable times ahead seems to be a good plan. Our monthly outlay in direct financial assistance is related to the account balance and projected income. We currently are budgeting about \$6,000.00 to \$6,500.00 a month for assistance. This can go up if we are faced with a larger need that we feel compelled to assist from a Moral/Gospel perspective. My decision making is far from perfect, and I often lose sleep over it all.

## Project Homeless Connect at BIX Hall – Thursday January 30th VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

*Associated Ministries* is sponsoring the 2025 Project Homeless Connect where people who are unhoused can secure assistance and services. **Volunteers are need for this collaborative ministry. The event will be on Thursday January 30<sup>th</sup> at Bix Hall.**

**To sign up to volunteer visit: <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/PHC-Volunteer> or contact Michele Cotton at: 253 426-1570.**

## The Washinton State Legislators are NOW IN SESSION! HB1217/SB 5222 - 2025-26

“Improving housing stability for tenants subject to the residential landlord-tenant act and the manufactured/mobile home landlord-tenant act by limiting rent and fee increases, requiring notice of rent and fee increases, limiting fees and deposits, establishing a landlord resource center and associated services, authorizing tenant lease termination, creating parity between lease types, and providing for attorney general enforcement.” (leg.wa.gov)

Food security is tied to hosing security, but Washington’s laws don’t protect tenants from excessive rent increases, predatory fees, or adequate notice about rent hikes. Excessive rent increases are increasing evictions and homelessness, especially for seniors and people of color. (Anit-Hunger& Nutrition Coalition/2025 Legislative Agenda)

**Please act and voice your support of this legislation. To view the bill and send your comments, please visit: <https://leg.wa.gov/> Enter the Bill Number and follow the prompts.**

**As we move into the year 2025, let not our hubris blind us of all that is Sacred, let not our fear hold us back in the work of Justice.**