



LUTHER MEMORIAL lutheran church



Messenger

June 2015

Actively Sharing Christ's Love in Community

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**All are welcome at Luther Memorial.
Come join us for worship every Sunday at 10 am!**



Congratulations to Sandy, Jackson, and Kyle! They were Confirmed on May 17, 2015.

THE LUTHER MEMORIAL MESSENGER

published by Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
13047 Greenwood Avenue N, Seattle, WA 98133 | 206.364.2510
www.luthermemoralseattle.com | office@luthermemoralseattle.com
June 18 is the deadline for articles in the July/August issue.

Rev. Julie G. Hutson, Pastor
Steve Olson, Congregation Council President
Paul Olsen, Choir Director
Katy Sarff, Office Administrator

PJ's Page

I've given much thought lately about what it means to be at home. For me, home is a place of comfort and peace, in ideal circumstances, which are not always what we have, but what we hope for.

In my lifetime I have lived in **27** different homes, NOT including my college years! Career and life circumstances have always meant that I was in a highly mobile family and life situation. I always found that this was an adventure! It was a chance to occupy a new space – and I think it also helped form my understanding of myself and my family. Home, you see, was never the house where we lived, it was the place where our loved ones were gathered and abiding.

The home Bruce, Taylor, and I moved into over five years ago is actually the physical space I've occupied for the longest time in my life! We have many happy memories there, but none of those memories are dependent on the house. They are memories we've made because of our relationships with one another.

Recently, Bruce and I came to realize that we are rambling around in a lot of square footage for two adults and a six pound dog. So we started to imagine living elsewhere. What would a 'dream home' look like? Would it be close to water? Would it have a view of the mountains? (Yes to both) Would it be secluded in an out-of-town space? Would it

be in a builder's development? (No to both) What we determined was that we love the pace and energy of the city, that the water draws us, and that we don't need anywhere near the amount of space that we currently occupy. So, we are about to embark on an adventure! We have rented out our current home, starting August 1st, and have signed a lease for a really lovely, very small condominium downtown, overlooking Elliott Bay, at about Pier 62/63.

Some things will change: We will have MUCH less space. I will drive a bit farther to work, but against the usual flow of traffic. We will have Pike Place Market literally behind our home and the water in front of us.

Some things will stay the same: We will occupy this home with the same kind of love and grace and the same kind of quirks and foibles with which we occupy our current home.

I've been thinking a lot about a congregation as a "church home." This is a trickier thing because even that language means that we claim a sense of ownership. And every time we do that, God reminds us that all we have is given to us by God to use for *God's* purposes. And a church home requires a doorway that is wide and welcomes the stranger and the long time occupant equally. This is harder for us to do.



Pastor Julie in front of her childhood home in Nuremburg, Germany

PJ's Page

And what we know to be true is what the children's song reminds us of: The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a parking lot, the church is people. (Some liberties taken with lyrics!)

It's tempting to spend much time and energy in the care and keeping of our buildings and believe that we are doing the work of the Kingdom. But we must be clear: we tend to our buildings only insofar as they enable and equip the work of the Kingdom. We come into our building for worship and learning and meetings and sometimes fellowship – but ministry and mission – they happen outside of these walls.

At our synod assembly Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, esteemed theologian, professor, disciple, author, and niece of Mary Walters, reminded us of this truth: "If we're going to become better lovers of neighbors [church is] not going to be the way it used to be."



The gate at Pastor Julie's first call parsonage

The good old days are long behind us. We cannot keep looking back, which is what Scripture reminds us. For Jesus words on this, we have this from Luke's Gospel "Jesus answered, 'Whoever puts a hand to the plow but keeps looking back is unfit for the reign of God.'" Luke 9: 62

The risen and ascended Christ calls us to look forward; that's where he's leading us! Home, perhaps, by another way, a way we did not anticipate and did not expect, but home to life in the fullness of the Kingdom of God.

Going home with you!

Pastor Julie Hubert

LMLC News and Events

A Pastoral Reminder...

A part of the work that you do here, through your support of our Helping Hands fund, is to provide financial assistance to those who are passing through or need a little extra help. We get requests like this several times a week. I want you to know that these funds are given with care. I try to verify the need, when possible, so that your funds are stewarded well. Often I'm able to do this through the network of neighborhood clergy in the surrounding area. We can share what we know and sometimes combine resources to better meet needs.

From time to time, the generosity of church folks is an easy target. The area clergy are aware of this as well and share information that keeps us from enabling unhealthy or even untruthful situations.

When a person comes into this building and approaches you directly for financial help, please send them to me! The funds I have are for this purpose! Please be careful when giving money or other offers of help directly to folks. It is too easy to get into a difficult or troubling situation.

Contributions to the Helping Hands fund can be designated and placed in the offering plate or donated online through the website.

An additional reminder: If you or a group you are meeting with are in the building, please be aware of leaving unlocked doors unattended. Thanks!

"Sesame Street": The Basic Information

As we continue to discern the best use of the land we've been given, several folks have asked that we publish again the basic information, to help clarify the vision we are considering. We are doing that here in a Q&A format, using the questions you've asked.

What kind of housing would be built?

Affordable housing for families at risk of homelessness. Most families would have to pay 30% of their income toward rent, although there would be some Section 8 units.

The apartments would be a mix of studio, 1, 2, & 3 bedroom units.

The land is zoned L-3, which limits it to three stories in height.

Although there are no plans or blueprints, care would be taken to insure that the outside of the building blended well with the neighborhood.

Where would the housing be built?

The housing would be built on some portion of the parking lot, which is owned by Luther Memorial. We would sell that portion of the land to Compass Housing Alliance.



LMLC News and Events

Who would manage the building?

Compass Housing Alliance would manage the building.

What are the benefits to such a project?

Of course, the greatest benefit is to those families who have no homes. Additionally, community would be created and enhanced on this corner of Greenwood and 132nd.

Finally, there would be some financial gain to the congregation as a result of the sale of the property.

What about parking?

Luther Memorial is required to have approximately 30 parking spaces. We would anticipate that those spaces would be surface spots. Additionally, we have an informal agreement with the school across the street to use their parking lot on Sundays when it is empty. The crosswalk with a stoplight provides safe passage between the church and the school.

Parking for the residents of the building, if required, would be separate from the church parking.

Would residents of the building come to worship?

All are welcome! We recognize that in our pluralistic city, the residents will not all be of the Christian faith. But we want this place to be a safe and welcoming place that share's God's love.

Other congregations who have built such projects have not typically experienced an uptick in worship attendance.

When can we talk more about this?

On June 7th, at First Sunday Faith Forum, Pastor Julie will lead us in a roundtable conversation about Sesame Street (remember, that's just a name we are using as "shorthand." There are no official names at this time.)

In Memorium

A memorial service for our sister in Christ, Dorothy Bergquist, will be held Saturday, June 6th at 1 pm at Luther Memorial. Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Luther Memorial has learned of the death of our friend The Rev. Bill Waring. Although he was an Episcopal priest, Bill worshiped regularly at Luther Memorial prior to his move into Norse Home a few years ago. Bill died on May 2nd and his Memorial Service was held at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church on May 16th.

LMLC News and Events

From the Front Office

For your convenience, a secure mailbox is affixed to the door of the office. Please do leave messages, usher reports, or other items in the box. Pencils and paper are attached to make it as easy as possible.

In addition, you can always email information to the office at: office@luthermemoralseattle.com

Information for Pastor Julie can be sent directly to her at pastor@luthermemoralseattle.com

Summer Messenger Publication Dates and Deadlines

In addition to this June Messenger, we will publish ONE July-August edition of the Messenger. Please submit any materials for this edition to the office (see information above) by June 18th. This gives you three extra days past the usual deadline of the 15th to get those articles into the office!

Summer Breakfasts

As usual, the Fruits of the Spirit breakfasts in the narthex will take a hiatus during the summer months. We will still have coffee and if anyone would like to bring goodies to share, you are welcome to do so! Coffee will be out by 9:30am. You are encouraged to gather for fellowship both before and after worship.

On June 21, July 19, and August 16 we will have a potluck breakfast at 9am in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share and pull up a chair!



Congratulations!



Luther Memorial congratulates our high school graduate, Corey Stever! Corey plans to attend Western Washington University in Bellingham this fall! Blessings to you, Corey!

LMLC News and Events

Summer Council Meeting Schedule & Who's On Council, Anyway?

Your congregational Council will meet on June 16th and August 11 this summer; it is customary to take a month off as the business matters of the congregation become less urgent during the summer months. If there are matters of urgency that arise, the Executive Committee stands prepared to meet and manage them.

Did you know that ALL Council meetings are open for anyone to attend as an observer?

Who's on Council you ask?

Steve Olson – President

Dave TerHark – Vice President

Pastor Julie - Pastor

Katy Sarff – Secretary of Council

Stephanie Bloom

Kris Johannson

Laura Steinmetz

Mary Hinderliter

Raj Lingappiah

Elaine Hardin

Donna Smith

Karen Olson (appointed as Treasurer)

PRIDE Sunday

On Sunday, June 28th, we will join our sisters and brothers in Christ as we march behind the BIG rainbow cross in the Seattle PRIDE Parade. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, which means that we publicly state our support of the LGTBQ community and really mean it when we say and sing that All Are Welcome!



Bishop Kirby Unti will be marching with the Lutheran contingent and YOU are invited to march with us as well!

Please sign up at Sign Up Central at the Welcome Center and we'll coordinate transportation.

This is a powerful event and a chance to witness to the wideness of God's mercy!

LMLC News and Events

Support the Phinney Ridge Lutheran Food Bank

Did you know that our sisters and brothers at Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church have a food bank on site? It is run entirely by members of their congregation and they do much good in the Greenwood/Phinney neighborhoods. In anticipation of the sale of the VOA Food Bank building, your Council has determined that our donations of food items will go to the Phinney Ridge Lutheran food bank. As usual, your donations can be placed in the grocery cart in the narthex, next to the Welcome Center.



About the Phinney Ridge Food Bank: (*from <http://prlc.org/we-serve/food-bank/>*)

The Phinney Ridge Food Bank serves approximately 75 families in our community per week. Our food bank is run entirely by volunteers. The volunteers work hard at keeping the shelves stocked, taking phone appointments, picking up food from the many agencies that donate to us, and keeping the food bank organized to allow for easy delivery on the days we are open.

We allow people to make appointments to pick up their food. The appointments allows us to customize a healthy box of food to fit the needs of their family. While we prefer appointments, we are always ready to serve walk-ups.

The food bank stocks a variety of food and personal care products for many different needs: low-sodium offerings, baby food, ethnic foods, pet food and a variety of foods designed people who are homeless.

Need Food?

*Anyone in need can call **(206) 784-7964** on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.*

Food can be picked up with an appointment on Tuesdays 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., Wednesdays 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. or on Thursdays at either 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. or 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

LMLC News and Events

Summer Activities with Luther Memorial!

During the summer, Luther Memorial will offer a number of opportunities to get together for fellowship, conversation, discussion, and time together. All are welcome at any and all of these events!

Brewing Faith will meet at area establishments for whatever snacks and beverages you wish to enjoy and the chance to have conversation around the table. There will be a subject to get us started, but where the conversation goes is up to us and the Spirit!

Dates/times/places for **Brewing Faith** are:

Thursday, June 25th, 7pm: Church Key Pub, 109 4th Ave. N, Edmonds

Thursday, July 30th, 7pm: Hopjacks, 19702 Hwy. 99, Lynnwood

Thursday, August 27th, 7pm: Anthony's Homeport, 456 Admiral Way, Edmonds

Page Turners, an evening book discussion group, will enjoy three books with a theological emphasis during the summer. Sign up at Sign Up Central in the Welcome Center and we will order books for you. If you wish to purchase the book on your own, that's fine as well. We will meet at the church.

Details for **Page Turners** are:

Wednesday, July 1st, 7pm: Searching For Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church by Rachel Held Evans

Wednesday, August 12, 7pm: Rejoicing in Lament: Wrestling with Incurable Cancer and Life in Christ by J. Todd Billings

Tuesday, September 1, 7pm: An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith by Barbara Brown Taylor

Worship and Music Committee Meeting

The Worship and Music Committee will meet next Sunday, June 7th, after worship. Please see Elaine Hardin for details.

LMLC News and Events

Greetings from the Choir Room –

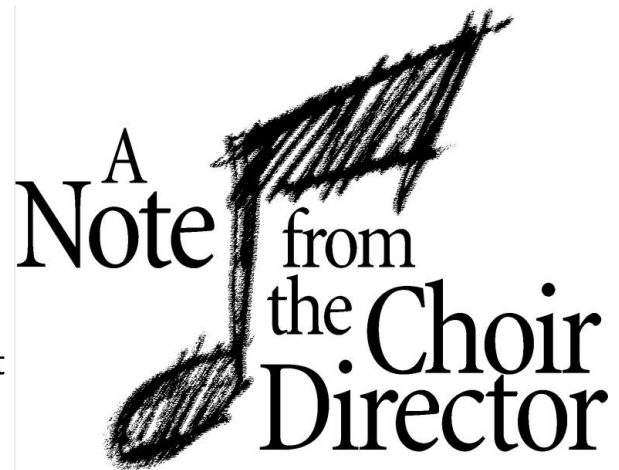
Greetings from the music room. I hope you have been as excited as I am about the increased size of the choir in the past several weeks. On May 11 we launched the first of what will be monthly “Music Mondays” where the choir gets together for a light dinner then continues with a rehearsal of all the anthems that will be done for that month, usually three anthems since we do not sing the first Sunday of each month. This extra evening rehearsal allows us to get together on Sunday mornings at 9:25 instead of 8:30. We will be having a Music Monday on June 1 and then the next one in September when we start up again. You are all very welcome to join us!

This month I wanted to tell you a few things you might not have known about Handel’s Messiah. I know that many of you have heard all or some of this amazingly wonderful work, at least the “Halleluiah Chorus”, and may have also sung in a civic or church choir that performed it or parts of it. The Christmas portion is about 90 minutes, and the whole work is over three hours in length. It is also a true story that Handel composed the music for this towering work in only three weeks, sometimes borrowing themes for music he had previously written for orchestra.

What I did not know until recently was that the libretto (the words) to Messiah, primarily based on Biblical texts, was not by Handel nor was it Handel’s original idea.

Here’s what happened. Charles Jennens, an aristocratic young man and huge fan of Handel, was also a devout member of the Protestant church and a strong believer in the divine inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible. He, and many other theologians and writers of his day, were shocked and disappointed in the growing Enlightenment movement in London, with its emphasis on free thinking, emphasis on scientific proof, and rationalistic criticism of Biblical texts. Many wrote long sermons, books and papers supporting the truth that Jesus was the promised Messiah through whom God offered salvation to mankind.

Jennens, however had the brilliant idea to have the essentials of this doctrine set to music by his hero, Handel. Beginning with the Isaiah text “Comfort Ye My People” sung by the tenor, the story of Old Testament sin and forgiveness, the promise of the Messiah and the story of Jesus’ birth is told followed by the difficult story of Lent and the glory of Easter (Halleluiah chorus) and ending with promises of victory over death and the Revelations text “Worthy is the Lamb Who Was Slain”, this story of prophecy and faith and victory in the person of Jesus has become a cornerstone of Western sacred music. In Handel’s day it was hugely popular and was frequently performed in England and Ireland as a benefit for orphan’s hospitals. Today it is performed in churches and concert halls and in frequent sing-alongs around the world. And now, as Paul Harvey famously said, you know “the rest of the story”.



LMLC News and Events

Music Monday!!

Thanks to all that participated in our first “Music Monday”! It was a great success! We will have our second Music Monday on June 1st. We hope to see everyone there. We will start with a potluck at 6 pm, so bring something to share, and your voice to sing!

Love to Sing?



Early Summer Sermon Series

During the month of June, our Scripture readings and proclamation of the Word will consider the theme of “plowing the fields.” While not every text will contain a reference to agriculture, we will consider what Scripture says about the work we are given to do.

As always, the Scripture readings will be included in the Mid Week updates that you receive via email and that are posted on the LMLC Facebook page. All of the Gospel texts are from Luke’s Gospel.

If you’d like to read ahead, they are listed here:

	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
Old Testament	Job 17: 1-16	Jeremiah 29: 4-14	Ecclesiastes 7:8-14	Isaiah 43: 16-21
Epistle (Second Reading)	Hebrews 12: 1-3	Hebrews 11: 8-16	Philippians 3: 7-14	2 Corinthians 5: 14-17
Gospel	Luke 9: 57-62	Luke 17: 20-25	Luke 12: 16-34	Luke 18: 9-17

Sunday School on Summer Hiatus

The final day of Sunday School is Sunday, June 7th. Luther Memorial thanks Donna Smith for her dedication to this ministry as chair of Spiritual Growth Committee and as the teacher of the younger kids class. She is assisted by Heidi Gough, Tara TerHark, and Raj Lingappiah. Pastor Julie continues to teach the Middle School class.

LMLC News and Events

Day Camp—Vacation Bible School!

This will be the third year Camp Lutherwood and their VBS Program has joined us at LMLC. See page 15 for more information, or register online!

www.luthermemoralseattle.com/daycamp2015

Mark on your calendar:

June 29 through July 2, 2015

Monday through Thursday

9 AM - 2 PM

3 years old through 5th grade (entering 6th grade)

\$20 per Child

Scholarships available

Lunch and Snacks provided



Volunteers and Helped Needed for the Following

- Snack and lunch preparations
- Buying food for the four days
- Registration
- Preschool teachers and assistants
- Cookie donations

Nepali Efforts

Lord in your mercy....

We join our prayers with many others for our sisters and brothers in Nepal, as they bury their dead, tend to their injured, search for the missing, and rebuild their communities. Lutheran Disaster Response in partnership with Lutheran World Relief is on the ground in Nepal and will remain for the long haul. 100% of your contribution goes to direct aid as overhead costs are covered by the ELCA. You can give in the offering by indicating "LDR/Nepal earthquake relief" on your check. You can give online at:



<https://community.elca.org/donations/nepalearthquake>

LMLC News and Events

**Pictures from Confirmation, May 17, 2015.
Thank you to all that came to support these new adults in our
congregation!
Thank you to Bruce Hutson for the pictures!**



LMLC News and Events

Stewardship Living

When we speak of stewardship, we often jump first to our financial stewardship, and this is, in fact, an important part of living as stewards of what God has given to us. But as summer approaches, we also consider the stewardship of our time – specifically our Sunday mornings. When the sun is shining and the temperatures are warm, it is tempting to just forget worship and head out to ride, walk, run, swim, camp, canoe, kayak, boat....whatever outdoor activity calls your name! Seattleites are enthusiastic about the use of every moment of good, summer weather.



I'd like to suggest that worship is one of the best ways to use your Sunday mornings. Read the paper in the sunshine, or sleep until 8 or 8:30. There's no Sunday School and nothing that means you must be at worship until 9:58 (unless you come for coffee and/or summer breakfast). Come and hear the Word of grace and truth and hope and mercy as we sing and speak and live it! Say hello to an old friend or make a new one. And give thanks for a God who generously pours out upon us grace upon grace.

Financial Notes:

Our giving for May was well under what we anticipated and budgeted for. As of this writing we are over \$2,000 short of anticipated giving. We simply cannot sustain these kinds of shortfalls before we consider cutting ministry or staff. Please remember your giving to the ministries of this place as you travel over the summer! What we do here makes a difference in the world God so loves.

Financial Picture

Monthly financial reports are now found in *The Messenger*. Your Council, Treasurer, Stewardship Team, and Pastor hope that these will give you a good idea of how our finances are faring. Talking about money, budgets, and giving is a part of Stewardship. We hope that having this information in the *Messenger* will be helpful to you in your financial support of the ministries of Luther Memorial.

May 2015

Preliminary Financial Picture as of May 24th

Data is not finalized and is subject to reconciliation.

LMLC 2014 Full Year Budget:	Contributions Needed per week :
\$222, 847	\$4,285.52

May Contributions Received as of 5/24/15

May 3	\$8,623.58	May 17	\$2,115.69
May 10	\$2,415.00	May 24	\$1,706.52

Contributions: \$14,860.79	Budgeted: \$17,142.08
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Difference as of 5/24/15: -\$2,281.29

May Contribution Designations

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Gifts other than Offerings and Tithes - General Fund	\$3,960.67
Unpledged Offerings and Tithes	\$1,437.66
Pledged Offerings and Tithes	\$8,981.00
ELCA World Hunger	\$40.00
Income-Other (eScrip, etc.)	\$36.91
ELCA International Relief (Nepali Earthquake)	\$35.00
Room Use	\$320.00
Vacation Bible School	\$45.55
Total May Contributions:	\$14,860.79

Summer Day Camp

June 29 - July 1

Ages: 3-10 (or entering 6th grade) **Registration**

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

www.luthermemoralseattle.com



Join us for...

★ Crafts ★ Games ★ Music ★ Stories ★

As well as *many* other fun and exciting activities with the kids that attend in our congregation and neighborhood!

Day Camp from Lutherwood and Luther Memorial offers the chance of a camp experience for all those in our area. Children can learn more about their faith - in a fun, safe, and inclusive environment!



Lutherwood Day Camp

Lutherwood's Congregational Day program is a unique blend of outdoor and congregational ministry. The Counselors lead Bible studies, worship, songs, games, team building activities and crafts! Day Camp will be 4 days of great fun! Counselors are all 18 or older, certified in First Aid, and spend their whole summer working with children. www.camplutherwood.org

2015 - Lutherwood's *Rock On!*

July 2, 2015 | 9 am-2 pm

Registration Cost: \$20 (lunch and snacks are provided each day; scholarships available)

13047 Greenwood Ave N. Seattle, WA 98133 | 206-364-2510

www.lutherwood.org/daycamp2015 | daycamp@luthermemoralseattle.com

LMLC Day Camp 2015 Registration - Please return to Luther Memorial by June 26, 2015 *or skip* the paper form and register online instead! www.luthermemoralseattle.com/daycamp2015

Mandatory Health and Release forms can be picked up at the church or found online. Please send completed paperwork to Luther Memorial by **June 26, 2015**. Forms can be mailed, dropped off at the church, or emailed to daycamp@luthermemoralseattle.com. We look forward to seeing you at Day Camp!

Child

Age Birthdate Grade completed

Food allergies Medical concerns

Siblings attending Day Camp

Parent or Guardian

Email

Home address

Primary phone Alternate phone

Emergency contact

Phone Relationship to child

ELCA Prayer Ventures



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.

These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the church.

1 The 33 congregations, 4,414 members, and leaders of the ELCA Caribbean Synod share the good news of Jesus Christ among diverse cultures and languages. We pray for their work and growth throughout that region.

2 We pray that the Holy Spirit fill us with compassion, acceptance and God's sense of justice as we live the joys and challenges of being a diverse society and creation.

3 We remember in prayer the thousands of young adults in training to serve children, youth, adults and campers with special needs in our 132 outdoor ministries this summer.

4 We are a church together. We remember in our prayers the ELCA Central States, Alleghany and Central/Southern Illinois Synod Assemblies, that the Spirit will guide their members and leaders in God's work and service in the world.

5 We remember in our prayers the ELCA Montana, Indiana-Kentucky, Western North Dakota, Southern Ohio and New Jersey Synod members and leaders gathered in assemblies.

6 We remember in our prayers the ELCA New England, West Virginia- Western Maryland, Virginia, Lower Susquehanna and Southeastern Synod members and leaders gathered in assemblies.

7 It is Jesus Christ, the son of God, in whom we trust to defeat all evil and death. For this we give thanks to God, and pray for confidence to share the good news and do God's will in the world.

8 We pray for The Episcopal Church, an ELCA full communion partner, and for the continuing growth of our relationship as together we share the gospel

and serve in the world.

9 As young people seek summer employment, we pray that they may find safe, fair and meaningful work in their communities.

10 The plight of migrant youth from Central America continues to be a concern. We pray that we may follow Jesus as welcoming, caring servants to all – especially the poor and suffering – and find ways to help bring about lasting changes in the violence and poverty from which these young people flee.

11 Today we honor the apostle Barnabas and how he welcomed Paul as a new convert. We pray that we may also welcome those who are new to faith in Christ and our faith communities.

12 We are a church together. We remember in our prayers the ELCA Northwestern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Pennsylvania and Grand Canyon Synod, that the Spirit will guide their members and leaders in God's work and service in the world.

13 We remember in our prayers the ELCA Southwestern Minnesota, Northeastern Iowa and La Crosse Area Synod members and leaders gathered in assemblies.

14 We give thanks for the small, immense and mysterious ways that God is present in the world, and for the ways in which the Holy Spirit cultivates faith, even in life's seemingly most difficult and barren circumstances.

15 For people who are grieving losses and recovering from earthquakes, tornadoes, flooding and natural disasters, we pray for relief, resources for rebuilding communities and the life-giving hope that comes with faith in God's presence and love.

ELCA Prayer Ventures

16 During these long days of summer, we are reminded of the one true light – Jesus Christ – who breaks through all darkness and gives new life to all creation. For this we give thanks and praise to God.

17 More than 3 million people were affected by the May 2014 cyclone that hit Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina. As they continue to rebuild their lives and communities, we give thanks for Lutheran Disaster Response's assistance with long-term relief and recovery efforts.

18 We are a church together. We remember in our prayers the Florida-Bahamas and Caribbean Synod Assemblies, that the Spirit will guide their members and leaders in God's work and service in the world.

19 Juneteenth is the celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. We pray that we continue to strive tirelessly for racial equality and justice in the world – for all of God's children.

20 We remember in our prayers the ELCA Northern Illinois, Upper Susquehanna and Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod members and leaders gathered in assemblies.

21 This weekend we remember in our prayers fathers who have nurtured the development and faith of children in every generation, and fathers who yearn for support and guidance in their lives and parenting.

22 We give thanks for our partnership with Lutheran World Relief to fund projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, projects that include agricultural production and food security, income generation and disaster risk reduction.

23 Planning teams are making final preparations for the Youth Gathering in Detroit. We pray for their good work and the success of the Gathering.

24 *Commemoration of John the Baptist* Today we honor the witness of John the Baptist, and pray that God grant us the same untiring passion for inviting the world to know and have faith in our savior, the true messiah, Jesus Christ.

25 We remember refugees fleeing areas of persecution and conflict in the Middle East and North Africa, and pray for their safe passage, restoration of their hope, and peace in their homelands.

26 We give thanks and praise to God, creator of everything, as we experience the wonders and complexity of nature throughout the summer months.

27 Confronting the persistent racism and classism in our nation, we pray for peace in communities suffering turmoil, and that God will lead us all to reconciliation, healing and new understanding in our life together.

28 As a faith community that defines no one as an outsider, we pray that we are eager to share the gospel, sincere in welcoming others, and willing servants of Christ in the world.

29 Peter and Paul, faithful servants of God and leaders in the church, brought their human weaknesses and strengths to their ministry. We pray that we may also trust in God's grace and live as bold witnesses to the gospel.

30 We remember in our prayers California and areas of the West suffering from severe draught, and we ask God for rains to restore the waters so precious and necessary for life.

This resource may be copied and shared among members and friends of the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Contact info@elca.org for additional information. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631. Telephone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2458.

Synod News

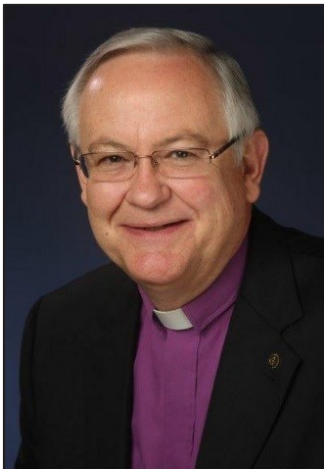
Volume 32, Number 6
June 2015

Always
being made
New.

25 YEARS TOGETHER IN CHRIST

The Spirit

Grace Always by the Rev. Kirby Unti, Bishop



It has always been important to me that the words I use align with my own sense of sincerity. This is particularly important to me when it comes to the use of religious language. I have been struggling since I entered the Office of Bishop to come up with a closing for the letters that I write that passes the sincerity test.

“Sincerely yours,” meets the test but it is a bit too bland and formal for me.

The one that I have been leaning towards is, “Grace always.” I used it a number of times before becoming aware of some inner resistance. How could I resist grace? It is at the heart and center of what I believe and most adequately defines for me the heart of God. The more I poked around in the resistance I began to realize that it might sound too Pollyannaish or worst yet it might appear as “cheap grace.” Cheap grace is defined as grace without the cross. This caused me to wrestle more deeply about what do I believe about grace?

I remember hearing Mike Breen talk about grace as an umbrella implying that one could fall outside of the umbrella of grace. This just doesn't work for me. Grace is either grace or it isn't. It seems to me when

one needs it the most is precisely when one falls outside the acceptable boundaries of forgiveness and acceptance.

While we were yet weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous person – though perhaps for good person one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:6-8

This for me places the cross right in the center of grace – all grace. Yes even cheap grace. I would rather err on the side of cheap grace than turn grace into something that one must be worthy of. Yet the tension in me still questions my sincerity in claiming, “Grace Always.” I thank God as a Lutheran that this tension is affirmed. In fact I am confident the tension lies somewhere in between my being at one and the same time a Saint and a Sinner.

What I do know for certain is the joy that I experience when I watch someone discovering grace for the first time. I was with a friend recently and every time she tried to explain why she was becoming a Lutheran all she could do was cry. She had spent far too much of her life striving to do right and live according to the impossible expectations of her faith community. Her life embraced by grace instead of guilt and shame has overwhelmed her with a flood of tears. She is drowning daily in the Grace Waters of baptism.

I will continue to struggle with the tension. Meanwhile, don't be surprised if you receive a letter from me signed, “Grace always!” Or on days when I am not as confident in my convictions, “May Grace Abound.”

Stay in touch and in the know!

Synod Website Calendar - www.lutheransnw.org/calendar

Do you receive the Weekly Update eNews? www.lutheransnw.org/subscribe

Synod News

Assembly Wrap Up

All Resolutions Passed

Five resolutions were passed by the assembly. The first welcomed our newest congregation, Church of Steadfast Love. Two resolutions encouraged seeking peace in the Holy Land. These were approved as amended. The final two encouraged care of creation. You may read the full text on the synod assembly webpage: www.lutheransnw.org/2015-Synod-Assembly. Briefly, here is what passed:

- + to welcome the Church of Steadfast Love as a congregation or our synod. (Welcome & congratulations!)
- + to memorialize the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA to ask for Congressional action requiring that future U.S. aid to Israel be contingent on Israel's halt to all settlement-building in the West Bank and that the US in coordination with the UN security council launch a more determined effort for a negotiated agreement that ends the occupation, achieves an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel and provides security and peace for both Israelis and Palestinians.
- + that synod congregations ask for Congressional action applying these conditions to future aid to Israel by advocating such action to their district's U.S. House Member and both of Washington State's U.S. Senators; and that the Bishop make this resolution's call known to the members of Washington State's Congressional delegation who serve citizens living in our synod and to the public at large.
- + to memorialize the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA to make climate change and ecological justice major themes in ELCA planning and activities leading up to and following the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.
- + to find ways to enact the 2013 Churchwide Assembly action to "support and encourage synods, congregations, members, the churchwide organization, and agencies and institutions of this church to adopt and advocate for policies that reduce energy use, and with it our dependence on fossil fuels, as an expression of this church's commitment to address climate change and to care for God's creation" and "to reexamine lifestyles and environmental footprints as they relate to the climate crisis and to improve their stewardship of energy resources and promote care for God's creation;" and that the synod commit itself to participate with the ELCA in becoming even more faithfully a denomination that embraces and practices creation care throughout its life and mission.

Election Results

MANY thanks to all who allowed their names to come forward as nominees for various positions. The following were elected:

Synod Consultation Committee

Pastor Bob Lewis Pastor Tim Wolbrecht David Swartling Stacy Kitahata

Synod Committee on Discipline

Pastor Penelope Guntermann Pastor Katy McCallum Sachse Paul A. Anderson Joanne Hinkle

2016 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

Tyler Bates Hannah Berg Pastor Tor Berg Franklin Chu Sister Liz Colver Pastor Ivar Hillesland Pastor Jennifer Schultz Sojin Thompson Bishop Kirby Unti and Synod Vice President Georganne Robertson will also attend, by virtue of their positions in the synod.

Thank you!

Many thanks to all who worked tirelessly to make the assembly a success: serving on the planning team & various assembly committees; our fabulous volunteers who helped out prior to & during the assembly, those who graciously gave presentations & led discussions; our friends who shared about their ministries at the display tables; and all the gracious voting members, observers and visitors who joined together in worship, business and conversation.

"Can We Talk" - yes, we can!

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Northwest Washington Synod, ELCA

5519 Phinney Ave North
Seattle, WA 98103
Phone: 206-783-9292; Fax: 206-783-9833
Toll Free: 844-597-0452
Email: office@lutheransnw.org
Website: www.lutheransnw.org

Info for the July issue is due to the Synod Office by June 4

Summer Worship Leaders

June

	6/7	6/14	6/21	6/28
Assisting Minister	Steve Olson	Paul Olsen	Katy Sarff	Gordon Trombley
Lector	Vicki Cook	Gordon Trombley	Tom Baker	Julie Moe
Acolytes	Taliyah McElroy Kyle Gough	Gavin Gough	Jackson Ter Hark	Payton Johnson
Communion & Altar Care	Sharon Howell and Beverly Mueller			
Greeters and Ushers	Gordon Trombley Leia Smith	Heidi Gough Kyle Gough	Lollie Ellingson Lynne Greenup	Laurie Meade Bill Meade
Song Leader	Heidi Gough	Julie Moe	Kris Johannson	Paul Olsen
Children's Time	Heidi Gough	Pastor Julie	Heidi Gough	Pastor Julie
Welcome Center	Vicki Cook	Karen Olsen	Mary Smith	Lollie Ellingson

July

	7/5	7/12	7/19	7/26
Assisting Minister	Paul Olsen	Steve Olson	Katy Sarff	Gordon Trombley
Lector	Karen Olsen	Stephanie Bloom	Gordon Trombley	Paul Olsen
Acolyte	Taliyah McElroy	Kyle Gough	Donna Smith	Payton Johnson
Communion & Altar Care	Lollie Ellingson			
Greeters and Ushers	Gordon Trombley Phyllis Swenson	Heidi Gough Gavin Gough	Laurie Meade Bill Meade	Lynne Greenup Lollie Ellingson
Song Leader	Katy Sarff	Julie Moe	Vicki Cook	Heidi Gough
Children's Time	Pastor Julie	Heidi Gough	Heidi Gough	Pastor Julie
Welcome Center	Steve Olson	Lollie Ellingson	Paul Olsen	Mary Smith

August

	8/2	8/9	8/16	8/23	8/30
Assisting Minister	Steve Olson	Katy Sarff	Paul Olsen	Gordon Trombley	Paul Olsen
Lector	Heidi Gough	Tom Baker	Stephanie Bloom	Norman Swenson	Elaine Hardin
Acolyte	Donna Smith	Gavin Gough	Taliyah McElroy	Payton Johnson	Jackson Ter Hark
Communion & Altar Care	Vicki Cook				
Greeters and Ushers	Bill Meade Laurie Meade	Heidi Gough Kyle Gough	Gordon Trombley Bruce Hutson	Phyllis Swenson Lollie Ellingson	Leia Smith Gordon Trombley
Song Leader	Julie Moe	Vicki Cook	Heidi Gough	Paul Olsen	Katy Sarff
Children's Time	Heidi Gough	Pastor Julie	Heidi Gough	Pastor Julie	Heidi Gough
Welcome Center	Mary Hinderliter	Vicki Cook	Karen Olsen	Mary Smith	Lollie Ellingson

June Worship

Early Summer Sermon Series—Scripture Readings

June 7

Job 17:1-16

Hebrews 12:1-3

Luke 9:57-62

June 14

Jeremiah 29:4-14

Hebrews 11:8-16

Luke 17:20-25

June 21

Ecclesiastes 7:8-14

Philippians 3:7-14

Luke 12:16-34

June 28

Isaiah 43:16-21

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Luke 18:9-17

Happy June Birthdays!

2 Steve Olson

3 Karen Olsen

4 Jerry Jacobs

9 Jed Terhark

11 Zachary Johnson
Joshua Lingappaiah

14 Owen North

15 Jill Kerton

16 Randi Jacobs

22 Naomi Anderson

Shirlee Russo

25 Kyle Gough

28 Bob Greenhow

29 Paul Olsen

Congrats to our June Anniversaries!

5 Joe & Leia Smith

7 Miranda & Owen North

21 Jerry & Randi Jacobs

22 Paul & Karen Olsen

24 Bill & Joan Kuklenski

26 Cindy & Selwyn Foster

29 Chris & Kristina Culmer

June 2015

See our live calendar online for any changes or updates: www.luthermemorialsseattle.com/calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Missing a Sunday this month?</i> We now have Online Giving on our website: www.luthermemorialsseattle.com/onlinegiving</p>	<p>1 <i>Pastor Julie's Sabbath</i> 6 Girl Scouts 6 Music Monday!</p>	<p>2 9-4 ESL Classes 7 Early Ford V8 Club</p>	<p>3 9:30 Seekers 7 Nar-Anon</p>	<p>4 9-4 ESL Classes</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 7:30 FARA 1 Bergquist Memorial</p>
<p>7 9 First Sunday Faith Forum, Sunday School and Fruits of the Spirit Breakfast 10 Worship 11:30 Fellowship <i>Worship and Music Committee Meeting</i> 3 Emmanuel Charisma Church</p>	<p>8 <i>Pastor Julie's Sabbath</i> 1:30 Book Brigade 6:30 Broadview Prepares</p>	<p>9 9-4 ESL Classes 6 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>10 9:30 Seekers 7 Nar-Anon</p>	<p>11 9-4 ESL Classes</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 7:30 FARA</p>
<p>14 9:25 Choir Rehearsal 10 Worship 11:30 Fellowship 3 Emmanuel Charisma Church</p>	<p>15 <i>Pastor Julie's Sabbath</i> 6 Girl Scouts</p>	<p>16 9-4 ESL Classes 6 LMLC Council</p>	<p>17 9:30 Seekers 7 Nar-Anon</p>	<p>18 9-4 ESL Classes</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 7:30 FARA</p>
<p>21 Fathers' Day 9: Potluck Breakfast 9:25 Choir Rehearsal 10 Worship 11:30 Fellowship 3 Emmanuel Charisma Church</p>	<p>22 <i>Pastor Julie's Sabbath</i></p>	<p>23 9-4 ESL Classes 6:30 Cub Scouts 6:30 Broadview Community Council Board</p>	<p>24 9:30 Seekers 7 Nar-Anon</p>	<p>25 9-4 ESL Classes 7 Brewing Faith at Church Key Pub in Edmonds</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 7:30 FARA</p>
<p>28 10 Worship 11:30 Fellowship 3 Emmanuel Charisma Church</p>	<p>29 <i>Pastor Julie's Sabbath</i> Day Camp/Vacation Bible School - 6/29-7/2 9 am - 2 pm</p>	<p>30 9-4 ESL Classes</p>				



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Actively Sharing Christ's Love in Community