



LUTHER MEMORIAL lutheran church



Messenger

December 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!**



The Sanctuary at LMLC is decorated for Advent!

THE LUTHER MEMORIAL MESSENGER

published by Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

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December 15 is the deadline for articles in the **January** issue.

Rev. Julie G. Hutson, Pastor

Steve Olson, Congregation Council President

Paul Olsen, Choir Director

Katy Sarff, Office Administrator

Lennon Aldort, Musician

PJ's Page

Since the middle of October my in-box, social media pages, television screen, and mailbox at home have been filled with holiday ads. They are created, ultimately, to entice me to spend more in order to "MAKE THIS CHRISTMAS THE BEST CHRISTMAS YET!" (latest ad from my Facebook feed.) And don't get me wrong, I love to celebrate this feast of the Incarnation of Jesus—God with us—Emmanuel. I even love some of what the world has created to put around this holy time—trees and lights and stars and angels and music.

One of my favorite secular Christmas songs is "There's No Place Like Home For the Holidays." Very recently, that song took on new meaning thanks to **your** generosity as you support this pastor's Helping Hands discretionary fund, which allows me to help people in your name and in the name of Christ.

And so, a story for this Advent/Christmas season....

They appeared overnight, as others have, seeking dry, safe shelter in the doorway of our fellowship hall. Surrounding their sleeping bags as they slept were items we might find on the bedside tables of our own sons: Gatorade, ear buds, and a paperback book, turned over, to save the page they would pick up with the next time.

At about mid morning every day, they would gather up their things, including a skateboard and a guitar, stop at our lunch window for a lunch, which was sometimes the only meal they had all day, and move on into the neighborhood for the day, until darkness brought them back to our doorway.

They were not always safe, even in our doorway. They'd been robbed twice: once in a shelter and once in our doorway, as they slept. It just went along with the territory, they said, but their eyes

betrayed an uncertainty about when it might happen again.

They had been buddies in high school, back in Knoxville, Tennessee. Alex had come to Seattle in the early spring of this year and had found the occasional job in construction. Daniel hitchhiked out in the summer, but was never able to have as much luck as his friend in finding a job. Eventually an altercation with a would be thief resulted in Daniel having a detached retina. For awhile he wore an eye patch, but eventually he just pulled his hat down over his injured eye.

I heard most of their story on a rainy, cold day, when I invited Daniel to step inside the narthex and chat while he ate his sack lunch. By then Alex had a more steady construction job and hoped he would soon have enough money to buy a used car. If he had a car, it could serve as both transportation and shelter. Daniel was losing hope of finding a job, but was thankful that, at least overnight, he and Alex could keep one another safe.

I asked Daniel if he ever thought about going home. For some people, home is even less safe than the streets. We can never take anything for granted. But Daniel nodded his head vigorously in response to my question. "I really want to go home, but I can't hitch hike back in winter; I'd freeze to death. And it's not safe to go through California."

It turned out that Daniel had a brother and a mother who were both willing to offer him shelter. His mother thought he could get a job at the Dollar Store that had just opened near her home.

I told Daniel that if he wanted to go home, our congregation would buy him a Greyhound bus ticket. He was flabbergasted, but seemed afraid that if he asked too many questions, I might

PJ's Page

change my mind. Once we had booked the ticket and he knew that in just a couple of days he would be heading home, he said: "I don't mean to seem ungrateful, but why would you all do this for me?" I told him that we believed that Jesus would want us to care for one another in this way.

And then, this response: *"But I'm a Baptist."*

Assured that even being a Baptist couldn't separate him from the love of God in Christ, he then shared this: "I've been praying for some safe way to get home."

I gave him my business card, pointed out my cell phone number, and told him that when the day arrived for him to go to the bus station, I would make sure he could get there. He would need to meet me at the church at 9:00 a.m.

When the day of his departure dawned, my phone rang at 8:00 a.m. "I'm here, at the Lutheran Church" he said. "Are you ready to go home?" I asked. "Yes ma'am" he responded, just like a southerner would. "I'll be there soon" I promised.

We loaded up Daniel's backpack with food from the sack lunch supplies. He also eagerly opened a juice box and some tuna; he hadn't eaten since lunch the day before. Katy joined me and we drove him to the bus station. I walked in with him, to make sure that everything was in order for his trip. As he checked his big backpack and sleeping bag, the Greyhound clerk caught my eye and took note of my clerical collar. Looking gently at Daniel, he stamped his boarding pass and said "You have priority boarding. You can go to the front of the line when we board."

Daniel's face filled with emotion and amazement. "I've never been invited to the front of the line for anything before" he said. With a hug and

about fifty thank-you's he moved into the bus terminal and I went out to my car, certain that I was standing on holy ground.

Later that day I had lunch with my college student daughter. It can be tough to be a PK, especially in these days. The Church demands much in the way of time and energy and attention from your clergy parent and resentment of God and God's church is not an uncommon response. But when I shared the story of Daniel with Taylor, she said "Mom, that's what Jesus meant when he said the last would be first." Yes, indeed, it is.

I hold Daniel and his family in my prayers. I hope that his trip on a dry, warm, bus was safe and uneventful. I hope that his mother and brother greeted him with joy and thanksgiving. And I am reminded of another story of another brother who wandered away and was greeted with joy at his homecoming. And of another mother and brother who worried over a son. And of a family searching out shelter night after night only to be told there was not room for them.

May you and those you love be filled with the love of Christ in this and all seasons. And Daniel, may your brother and your mother and you feel the love from this congregation, that gave just a little bit of itself so that you could be together. There truly is no place like home for the holidays.

Deep peace to you,

Pastor Juli Hubert

Update: Daniel left a voicemail at the church. He arrived safely home! He said Thank You several more times and noted that our congregation was an answer to his prayer. Thanks be to God.

LMLC News and Events

Stewardship Living

If that pledge card or Time & Talent sheet is still laying around at home, there's still time to fill them out and turn them back in to the office.

We are grateful for the pledges we have received and for the ongoing support of this congregation to the future of Christ's church.

Advent on the 'Ridge'

In the haste of the season, make some time for Evening Prayer for Advent with our Lutheran neighbors along the 'ridge' (Phinney Ridge). The congregations of Luther Memorial, Phinney Ridge Lutheran, and St. John United Lutheran will join together for mid-week worship on Thursday evenings, December 3, 10, and 17th, at 7pm, with cookies and good cheer to follow worship.

December 3rd – 7pm – Luther Memorial Church
December 10th – 7pm – Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church
December 17th – 7pm – St. John United Lutheran Church

Advent on the 'Ridge'
 Midweek Worship – Thursdays at 7 pm
 December 3rd - Luther Memorial
 13047 Greenwood Ave N. Seattle, WA 98133
 December 10th - Phinney Ridge
 7500 Greenwood Ave N. Seattle, WA 98103
 December 17th - St. John United
 5515 Phinney Ave N. Seattle, WA 98103

Children's Pageant and Soup & Song

The annual Children's Pageant is Sunday, December 13th during worship. Don't miss this treasured event in the life of this congregation!

Following worship on the 13th, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a soup lunch, with even MORE talent on display, as well as the singing of beloved songs of the season.

Welcome Vicar Michael!

Michael Trice is a candidate for ordination in the NW Washington synod of the ELCA and our new pastoral intern! He will be with us for the next year, learning what it means to serve in the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

We will welcome Vicar Michael and his family at a pot-luck luncheon on December 6th, immediately following worship. Bring a dish to share and let's extend a warm Luther Memorial welcome to them all! (For more from Vicar Michael, see his article elsewhere in this Messenger.)



Office Closed

The LMLC Office will be closed on December 24th and 25th.

LMLC News and Events

Christmas at Mary's Place

Once again this year the Giving Tree in the Narthex has tags on it for our friends at Mary's Place. There are three different types of gifts you may provide:



-Shoe Tags provide a new pair of shoes to be given to a homeless woman, man, or child. Shoe Tags request a \$20 donation (checks made to Mary's Place) so that they can purchase the appropriate shoes at a discounted price.

-Toy Tags are for gifts that will be given to homeless moms, dads, and grandmothers so that they in turn can give them to their children and share in the joy of giving.

-Gift Tags for Mom, Dad, & Grandma are items that will be placed in the Santa Store at Mary's Place, so the children can "shop" for their families.

**Please do not wrap the gifts, but attach your gift tag securely to your purchase!
All items MUST be returned to Luther Memorial by Sunday, December 13th.**

O Come All Ye Faithful

We gather on Christmas Eve to worship Jesus who has come among us. Worship is at 8:00pm. Bring your family, invite a neighbor or friend.



Affordable Housing Update

On November 8th, the congregation at Luther Memorial voted by an overwhelming margin to authorize the Congregation Council to negotiate and execute the purchase and sale of a portion of our parking lot to Compass Housing Alliance, for the purpose of building affordable housing. At their December board meeting the Compass Board will consider their motion for the same matter, based on the strong recommendation of their staff.

This process will not move quickly, as funding sources (city, state, and federal) as well as other matters involve lots of time, energy, and patience.

We will keep you updated every step of the way.



New Interim Treasurer

Following Karen Olsen's resignation as Treasurer, the Council has appointed Diane Chapman to serve as Interim Treasurer, anticipating that this assignment will remain in place until the Annual Meeting in January 2016. The Council is thankful for Karen's service in this important role and grateful for Diane's willingness to step in.

LMLC News and Events

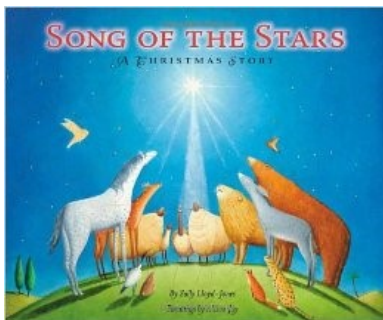
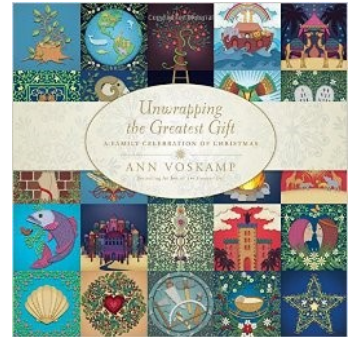
New in the Children's Library

There are two wondrous treasures in the Children's Library this Advent season.

Unwrapping the Greatest Gift: A Family Celebration of Christmas

by Ann Voskamp

This lovely, thorough volume walks the reader story by story through the lineage of Jesus. From the Garden of Eden to the manger (and beyond!) families will find a rich feast for conversation and contemplation together.



Song of the Stars: A Christmas Story

by Sally Lloyd-Jones

This wondrous story considers how creation received the news that Jesus had been born. The entire universe is breathless with anticipation...The joyous news spreads out across fields, deserts, oceans – from stars, to trees, to robins, to flowers. Sheep tell their young. Angels sing to the shepherds. And together they all join in nature's great chorus of praise to the newborn Jesus.

Poinsettia Donations

Poinsettias can be given in memory or in honor of someone special to you. The cost is \$10; checks can be made payable to LMLC with *Poinsettia* in the memo line, cash can be put in an envelope similarly marked, or contributions can be made online through our website (www.luthermemorialsseattle.com/onlinegiving), noting it as a dedication. Please place checks or cash in the offering plate with the completed form.

The poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary on the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

I wish to donate _____ poinsettias at \$10 each.

Your Name:

Please circle if you wish to donate in memory or honor

In memory/honor of:

In memory/honor of:

In memory/honor of:

Please circle payment form: Cash Check Online

Vicar's View

Michael Reid Trice

Intern toward Ordination in the ELCA – at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

Gratitude goes with the month of November like hope does for the season of Advent. At least, this is the month – which includes a national holiday – in which we gather around the table and meal to give thanks. Around the planet, in fact, this time of year is closely associated with a bountiful harvest, and with an awareness that the earth is turning toward slumber. It also serves for Christians as a final reminder (on our forthcoming Reign of Christ Sunday) that for every Church season, we are called by a God of Grace to be lights of hope in a hurting world.

This has been a difficult few weeks in the world. With the attacks in France, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Palestine, we are at a time when local communities of faith can serve as places of restoration and hope to a world that is hungry for both more generosity and gratitude, within it. Often enough, expressions of generosity and gratitude begin close at home.

And so, it is in light of your generosity to helping shape another intern that I want you to know how grateful I am to be serving at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church for this coming Church year! My wife Jennifer, our daughter Brigid (she'll remind you that she is 10 years old this year), and I are grateful to you for your open arms to us, and for your commitment to the formation of ministers of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA. Our sincere hope is that we get to know you and your sense of shared mission and ministry in the world; my further

hope is likewise to learn first-hand from you about the vitality of your dedication as a community of faith. I am truly looking forward to this time together.

I'd like you to know a little bit about my family. For my part, I currently serve at Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry as one of their deans and on the faculty, teaching in varying areas of theology (such as theological ethics, and what we might call 'world Christianity' today). Jennifer is a fund raiser at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center; and Brigid is enjoying 4th grade (especially math, science and reading) at Meridian Park Elementary School. We moved to this beautiful area of the country five years ago from Chicago, but long before that Jennifer and I were seminary students together in North Carolina. This trek of discernment from North Carolina to Seattle, and toward ordination in the ELCA, is a journey for us as a family. Your willingness to bring us into your community, and to welcome the discernment of ministry with you, is one more clear example of affirmation for where God is leading. We are doing our utmost to follow.

In the months ahead, and as we walk together through the seasons of the Church, we want to begin in gratitude; your generosity is a source of light for my family. May God bless each of you in life, work, play and times for prayerful reflection. I look forward to meeting all of you in the coming weeks.

Your Grateful Intern, Michael Reid Trice

LMLC News and Events

Support LMLC by shopping on Amazon!

What is the AmazonSmile Foundation?

The AmazonSmile Foundation is a 501(c)(3) private foundation created by Amazon to administer the AmazonSmile program. All donation amounts generated by the AmazonSmile program are remitted to the AmazonSmile Foundation. In turn, the AmazonSmile Foundation donates those amounts to the charitable organizations selected by our customers. Amazon pays all expenses of the AmazonSmile Foundation; they are not deducted from the donation amounts generated by purchases on AmazonSmile.

How does AmazonSmile work?

When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from almost one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization.

How does my organization receive the donations?

Each quarter, the AmazonSmile Foundation makes donations to eligible charitable organizations by electronic funds transfer. Donations will be transferred approximately 45 days after the end of each calendar quarter. To account for Product returns, a portion of the quarterly donations will be withheld until the next donation cycle, subject to any reduction due to returns from prior quarters.

To sign up, or shop go to: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-0679122>

Shop at AmazonSmile

and Amazon will make
a donation to:
Luther Memorial
Lutheran Church

Get started

amazon smile

LMLC News and Events

LMLC Membership Directory and Records - 2015 Update

We are in the process of putting together a non-pictorial directory. Please fill this form out and return to the drop box on the Office door, the Office Administrator's box in Katie's Parish, or email the info to office@luthermemorialsattle.com. Thank you! We appreciate your help, in making sure our information is accurate and up-to-date. Directories will only be available to LMLC Members.

Please note that we will only publish information that we have been given consent for, in the check boxes below. Birthdates and anniversaries will NOT be published in the Directory, but the month/day will be in our Newsletters. If you do NOT want your birthday or anniversary in the Newsletter, please let us know. We respect your privacy, and want to accommodate to your comfort level!

	Member	Spouse or Partner	
Name:			<input type="checkbox"/>
Preferred or Nickname:			<input type="checkbox"/>
Email:			<input type="checkbox"/>
Address:			<input type="checkbox"/>
Home Phone:			<input type="checkbox"/>
Cell Phone:			<input type="checkbox"/>
Birthdate:			<input type="checkbox"/>
Anniversary Date:			<input type="checkbox"/>

Consent to include in Directory:

Birthdates and Anniversaries will NOT be in the Directory

Children and Family Members	
Name:	Birthdate: (NOT in Directory)

ELCA Prayer Ventures



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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

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

December 2015

1 *World AIDS Day* We pray that our work in collaboration with our global partners and companion churches will further develop and expand ministries of HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and advocacy where they are needed most.

2 Recalling God's promises to us throughout history, we pray that during Advent we are immersed in the hope, expectation and new life given and fulfilled in the gift of Jesus Christ, son of God.

3 We remember as we watch the glowing light of the Advent wreath to give thanks to God for bringing the light and hope of Christ into the world.

4 Many states continue to recover from flooding and the threat of more floods. We pray for the safety and recovery of those most affected, especially families, people living in poverty, older adults, economically distressed communities and small businesses.

5 We remember times and situations of darkness and despair in the world—in the present and throughout history—and give thanks that God breaks into the darkness with the light of Jesus Christ, bringing healing, hope, new life and the reassurance of God's presence and love for us.

6 Throughout Advent we pray that our actions, words and relationships help "prepare the way of the Lord" for those who do not know the good news of Jesus Christ or are longing for lasting forgiveness and hope in their lives.

7 As Paul valued the work of the Christians in Philippi, we also give thanks for our many partners and companion churches and pray that we encourage and complement one another in doing God's work together in the world.

8 We give thanks for the unique perspectives of faith and tradition that come with the diversity of cultures in the world and for observances that remind us of how God called and used Mary to fulfill the prophecies of the promised Messiah—Jesus Christ.

9 For soldiers on active duty, serving in areas of high risk and separated from family and faith communities, we pray that they find comfort and strength in the cloud of faithful witnesses that surround them, even from afar.

10 We remember in our prayers all people, especially women and children, who live with the debilitating and wounding effects of poverty and hunger. We pray they will find relief and self-sufficiency and that we will be generous in our support and work to end poverty and hunger everywhere.

11 We remember in our prayers our elders and pray they are surrounded by caring and supportive circles of friends, family and care providers, as well as nurturing communities of faith that value their gifts, life experiences and wisdom in the mission and work of the church.

12 On this Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we give thanks to God for the witness and traditions that come from our Latino sisters and brothers in Christ and for the ways in which they make God's presence and work in the world known.

13 Our baptism is a sign of repentance, newness and belonging, and a call to a life of service and witness. We pray the Holy Spirit will guide and enliven our service and witness with others, especially when we grow weary or hesitant.

14 As John the Baptist was fearless and persistent in proclaiming the coming Messiah, we pray that we, too, may be eager and bold in our witness of the good news with our family, friends, neighbors and coworkers.

15 The holiday season is often consumed with buying gifts, sending cards, decorating and parties, but we ask God to also put reminders in our days of what it means to prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas—the birth of our Savior.

16 The days grow shorter and colder and more unforgiving for those without shelter and warmth. We ask God to help us be instruments of compassion and

ELCA Prayer Ventures

relief and to help us find and create safe shelter for people who are homeless or face the threat of becoming homeless.

17 We remember and give thanks for pastors, youth ministers, teachers and all leaders of the church and pray that they will find time for physical and spiritual rest and renewal during this busy season of the church.

18 We remember in our prayers men, women and youth who are in jail or prison and ask that they not be forgotten or excluded from hearing and celebrating the promises of God's mercy, forgiveness and salvation.

19 We pray that God will have mercy on us, lead us, restore us, show us steadfast love and be patient with us.

20 May we will always be joyful and filled with the Holy Spirit, as Elizabeth and Mary were, when we learn what God has in mind for us and when we are placed in unexpected opportunities for service and witness.

21 We remember in our prayers all seasonal workers who serve us during the holidays, and pray that we may treat them with respect and gratefulness and invite them to join us in our faith communities, gatherings and celebrations.

22 Even on the darkest of days our lives are illumined and warmed by the light of Christ, the son of God, born into our world and reality—God's love manifest for all. On this Winter Solstice, we offer prayers of thanks and praise as we again relive the anticipation of Jesus' birth.

23 For families and individuals living in shelters this Christmas season, we pray they will experience joy, generosity and the company of people who demonstrate acceptance and care. We also pray that each may find safe, dependable shelter—a home—and the means to satisfy their daily needs.

24 *Christmas Eve* We pray that we never lose the anticipation we have on the eve of Christmas and that all we say and do points to the ultimate proof of God's love and mercy for us—Jesus Christ.

25 *Christmas Day* On this day we give thanks and praise for the birth of Jesus, the incarnation of God among us, the yearned for yet undeserved gift of love and new life for all humanity.

26 On this first day of Kwanzaa, we remember our African American brothers and sisters, and give thanks for the cultural heritage and traditions, family and community values, and concern for creation lifted up during the celebration of Kwanzaa.

27 Knowing and following Jesus can challenge all that seems familiar and important to us as humans. We pray that God will grant us the ability to trust and have faith, especially when we are troubled or uncertain.

28 The refugee crisis in the Middle East and Europe changes day by day, but we remain steadfast in our prayers for peace in the homelands they flee, for acceptance and respect throughout their journeys and for newfound communities that offer refugees stability and new opportunity.

29 With humility, we ask God to help us walk in the light of Jesus and bear faithful witness to the gospel every day and through every aspect of life and human endeavor.

30 As we move farther from the celebration of Christmas, we pray that our expressions of joy and thanksgiving for the gift of Jesus do not fade but gain new energy and life.

31 *New Year's Eve* Remembering the ways in which we have fallen short of our promises and commitments, we come to God in prayer each day trusting in the forgiveness and newness God has promised us in our baptism and through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

Synod News

Volume 32, Number 12
December 2015

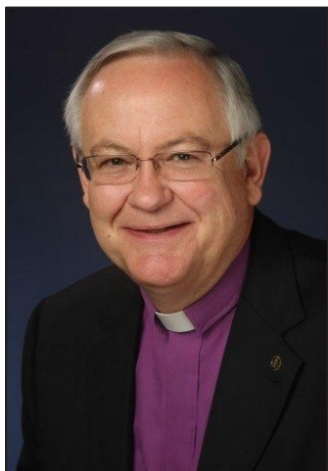
Always
being made
New.

25 YEARS TOGETHER IN CHRIST

The Spirit

No Room at the Inn?

by the Rev. Kirby Unti, Bishop



*And Jesus said to him,
"Foxes have holes, and birds
of the air have nests; but
the Son of Man has
nowhere to lay his head."
Matt 8:20*

One of my fond memories of Christmas at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Renton was the child-sized nativity scene that was set up in the narthex. The children of the congregation were utterly fascinated by it and could often be found playing amongst Mary & Joseph, the

Wisemen and Shepherds. In fact, one year a child made off with the Baby Jesus.

The nativity scene stirs up the child in me. The child who is captured by the incredibly sad news, "That there was no room for them in the Inn."

This sad news has now become a reality in every town of this Synod. We have families and individuals who are rebuffed with the same message. "There is no room for you in the Inn." So, we find people sleeping in the cars, in tents, on bus shelter benches, and any place that they can find a barrier from the cold and damp Northwest nights.

I cannot imagine trying to survive out of doors night after night. I so easily become cold – even while living indoors. It would be my worst nightmare.

I am grateful that so many of our congregations and ministry sites are committed to trying to

provide housing for those who go without. I don't think it is any accident that the Christmas Story includes lodging the Holy Family in a stable. This is the God I know. The God who hears the cry of God's people and comes down to be with us. This is the Jesus I know who enters into the forsaken, rejected, brokenness of the world. This is the Spirit I know who when everyone else is absent comes to counsel and comfort.

What would it mean if the community could see every family without a home as the Holy Family? What would it mean if every person who has to seek some form of flimsy shelter in the cold would be seen as the Baby Jesus?

Is it possible we might treat our sisters and brothers with greater kindness? Is it possible that we would have the political and moral will to put an end to the reality that there are those who go without shelter?

I invite you during this Advent / Christmas season to see those who struggle the most in our community through the eyes of a child - the child who cannot wait to pick up the Baby Jesus from the crèche, wrap them in warm blankets and hold them tightly in love.

+++++

P.S. You will note that I did not use the phrase, "homeless people." For me, it has become a demeaning term. Homelessness describes their lack of shelter. It should never define who a person is. They are persons without a home.

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

The Flip Side

NW Washington Synod Policy on Addictive Behaviors

A new policy was adopted by the NW Washington Synod Council on September 19, 2015. This policy replaces the Policy on Chemical Dependencies dated January 16, 1993.

Addiction is a reality of human life. We define addiction as a “behavior one continues doing compulsively, regardless of the negative consequences.” While addiction does not preclude one from the pastoral office or rostered ministry, untreated addiction is destructive to individuals and breaks trust with community, and is therefore incompatible with rostered leader service in the church.

Both *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* and *Vision and Expectations* outline the church’s standards of conduct for rostered leaders. Here is a relevant section from *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* (page 5 paragraph 6):

“Addiction and Substance Abuse: Any addictive behavior that impairs the ability of an ordained minister to perform effectively the duties of the office or the misuse of alcohol, drugs, medications, sex, gambling, or pornography is incompatible with the office of pastoral ministry. The approach of this church to such a problem may be to insist upon effective treatment or to initiate immediate discipline. Refusal to accept treatment or failure to abide by the terms of such treatment is conduct incompatible with the character of the ministerial office.”

Consistent with this standard, the Northwest Washington Synod has adopted the new policy for handling all addictive behavior; substance abuse; and, substance use disorder, also referred to in this policy as substance misuse or substance misuse disorder.

Find this policy on the synod website:
www.lutheransnw.org/files/policies/addictive_behavior_policy.pdf

Compensation Guidelines for 2016

These guidelines are intended to assist congregations in providing for adequate compensation to professional leaders in parish settings, including: Clergy, Associates in Ministry, Diaconal Ministers and Deaconesses.

You will find this document on the synod website:
www.lutheransnw.org/files/forms_and_documents/SalaryGuidelines2016.pdf + + + + +

Synod Advent Gatherings

December 1, 1pm-5pm at St. John United, Seattle December 2, 1pm-5pm at Camano Lutheran Church

Your synod staff members are delighted to host TWO Advent Gatherings again this year. All members & friends of the synod are invited to stop by for warm drinks and sweet & savory treats either afternoon. Hope to see you there!

Extravaganza

Main Event: February 5-8

Intensive Care Courses: February 4-5 Hyatt Regency Hotel, Anaheim, California

ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza is an annual 4-day conference that draws together anywhere from 500-750 adults who work with youth in congregations of the ELCA for the premier renewal, education and networking event of our church. **It is for the professional and the volunteer.** It is for the old and the young. It is for the urban, the suburban, and the rural. It is for pastors, it is for laypeople. It is for all who share in the adventure we call youth and family ministry.

The theme for Extravaganza 2016 is WONDER.

This is a conversation that includes the whole of the Universe, and God’s bold action. And together we wonder who God is by what God does. WONDER is deeply embedded in the DNA of children, youth, and family ministry in the ELCA. In our ministries we accompany young people as they search for deeper meaning, more answers, wider perspective, the next best technology to keep us connected to members and friends.

Learn more about The Extravaganza (workshops, speakers, exhibit hall, registration, housing, etc.!) here: <http://elcaymnet.org/e2016>

The Spirit, a publication of the NW Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), is intended for synod congregations & organizations.

Northwest Washington Synod, ELCA

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Info for the January issue due to the Synod Office by Dec. 7

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.

November 2015

Preliminary Financial Picture as of November 22, 2015

Data is not finalized and is subject to reconciliation.

LMLC 2015 Full Year Budget:	Contributions Needed per week :
\$222, 847	\$4,285.52

November Contributions Received as of 11/22/15

November 1	\$10,689.97	November 15	\$1,245.00
November 8	\$3,775.00	November 22	\$2,213.00
Contributions: \$17922.97		Budgeted: \$17,142.08	

Difference: +\$780.89

November Contribution Designations as of 11/22/15

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Unpledged Offerings and Tithes	\$2,859.79
Pledged Offerings and Tithes	\$8,987.00
Gifts other than Offerings	\$4,088.67
Income-Other (eScrip, Quill Returns, etc.)	\$107.51
Helping Hands	\$95.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$250.00
World Hunger	\$290.00
ELCA Domestic Disaster Relief	\$250.00
ELCA—Other Programs	\$250.00
Fruits of the Spirit Breakfast	\$25.00
Room Use (Room Use, Damage Deposits, and Facilities Offset Fees)	\$720.00
Total Contributions:	\$17,922.97

December Worship

Lectionary Readings

December 6 Advent 2	December 13 Advent 3	December 20 Advent 4	December 24 Christmas Eve	December 27 Christmas 1
Mal 3:1-4	Zeph 3:14-20	Micah 5:2-5a	Isa 9:2-7	1 Sam 2:18-20,26
Luke 1:68-79	Isa 12:2-6	Luke 1:46b-55	Psalm 96	Psalm 148
Phil 1:3-11	Phil 4:4-7	Heb 10:5-10	Titus 2:11-14	Col 3:12-17
Luke 3:1-6	Heb 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45	Luke 2:1-14	Luke 2:41-52

Worship Leaders


	12/6	12/13	12/20	12/24	12/27
Assisting Minister	Steve Olson	Kelsey Larson	Vicar Michael	Gordon Trombley	Gordon Trombley
Lector	Vicar Michael	Julie Moe	Paul Olsen	Phyllis Swenson	Gordon Trombley Diane MacKechnie Rev. Sue Wanwig
Acolyte	Kyle Gough	n/a	Gavin Gough	Gavin Gough	Payton Johnson
Communion & Altar Care	Worship Space Prep Committee				
Greeters and Ushers	Lynne Greenup Lollie Ellingson	Laurie Meade Bill Meade	Donna Smith Steve Olson	Laurie Meade Bill Meade	Heidi Gough Kyle Gough
Song Leaders	Katy Sarff	Julie Moe	Julie Moe	n/a	Paul Olsen
Children's Time	Heidi Gough	n/a	Pastor Julie	n/a	n/a
Welcome Center				n/a	
Crucifer	n/a			Gordon Trombley	n/a
Musician	Lennon Aldort			Paul Hoffman	Lennon Aldort

Happy December Birthdays!

4 Jonathan Stever	11 Ben Smith	Taylor Martin	27 Calvin North	31 John Hicks
5 Shannon Stief	16 Stephanie Bloom	20 Megan Meade	28 Anne Jamieson	Erika Skovron
6 Bette Harris	16 James Gibbs	Michelle Sorrick	28 Annamarie Norman	Pam Stever
7 Dale Ebeling	18 Carl Ebeling	24 Leia Smith	29 Lola Whitner	
	18 Janice Sherlock	26 Vanessa Elliott		
		Vivian Harlin		

December 2015

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>LUTHER MEMORIAL lutheran church</p> <p><i>Actively Sharing Christ's Love in Community</i></p>						
<p>6 9 First Sunday Faith Forum and Sunday School 10 Worship 11:30 Vicar Michael Welcome Potluck Luncheon! 3 Emmanuel Charisma Church</p>	<p>7 Pastor Julie's Sabbath 6 Music Monday! 6 Girl Scouts</p>	<p>1 1-4 ESL Classes 7 Early Ford V8 Club</p>	<p>2 9:30 Seekers 7 Nar-Anon</p>	<p>3 1-4 ESL Classes 7 Midweek Worship: <i>Advent on the 'Ridge' @</i> Luther Memorial</p>	<p>4 10-4 Foss Holiday Party</p>	<p>5 7:30 FARA</p>
<p>13 9 Sunday Church School 9:15 Choir Rehearsal in Fellowship Hall 10 Worship with Children's Pageant 11:30 Fellowship and Soup & Song! <i>Mary's Place Gift Tags Due on this day!</i> 3 Emmanuel Charisma Church</p>	<p>14 Pastor Julie's Sabbath 1:30 Book Brigade</p>	<p>15 1-4 ESL Classes 6 Cub Scout Christmas Party 7 Broadview CC Board Meeting</p>	<p>16 9:30 Seekers 7 Nar-Anon</p>	<p>17 1-4 ESL Classes 7 Midweek Worship: <i>Advent on the 'Ridge' @</i> St. John United Lutheran</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 7:30 FARA</p>
<p>20 9 Sunday Church School 9:15 Choir Rehearsal in Fellowship Hall 10 Worship 11:30 Fellowship 3 Emmanuel Charisma Church</p>	<p>21 Pastor Julie's Sabbath 6 Girl Scouts</p>	<p>22 1-4 ESL Classes</p>	<p>23 9:30 Seekers 7 Nar-Anon</p>	<p>24 1-4 ESL Classes 8 Christmas Eve Worship</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 7:30 FARA</p>
<p>27 9 Sunday Church School 9:15 Choir Rehearsal in Fellowship Hall 10 Worship 11:30 Fellowship 3 Emmanuel Charisma Church</p>	<p>28 Pastor Julie's Sabbath</p>	<p>29 1-4 ESL Classes</p>	<p>30 9:30 Seekers 7 Nar-Anon</p>	<p>31 1-4 ESL Classes</p>	<p>Christmas Eve Christmas Day LMLC Office Closed</p>	<p>Missing a Sunday this month? We now have Online Giving on our website: www.luthermemorialsseattle.com/onlinegiving</p>