



LUTHER MEMORIAL lutheran church



Messenger

March 2016

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!**



LMLC started our 2016 Lenten Journey on Ash Wednesday, February 10th. Journey with us on Wednesdays at 6 pm, and Sundays at 10 am.

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

March 15 is the deadline for articles in the **April** issue.

Rev. Julie G. Hutson, Pastor (on Sabbatical)
Rev. Paul E. Hoffman, Interim Pastor
Vicar Michael Trice, Intern
Steve Olson, Congregation Council President
Katy Sarff, Office Administrator
Lennon Aldort, Musician and Choir Director

PH's Page

On Sunday, 27 March, I'll be celebrating my 61st Easter. I was born on Good Friday 1956, so I don't really remember that first Easter of my life, but there are few after that one that do not loom large in my memory.

Soon after I came to Seattle in 1996, I think that my Holy Week and Easter season question became consistent. "Where in the world am I seeing the Risen Christ in the world today?"

I wish that you could see what I see. I wish that you could see what I have been seeing since coming to Luther Memorial at the beginning of February. Sometimes a pair of fresh eyes can help those who have been here for a long time to see what you may not be able to see quite so clearly. I wish you could see what I see. I wish you could see the Risen Christ in the world today the way I see him through the ministry of Luther Memorial.

I wish that you could see Christ alive
...in the lunches handed out through the office window on a daily basis.

...in the circle of Council leaders who gather to guide this congregation's ministry each month, many of them coming after a long day of work and *all* of them wading through Seattle traffic to get here.

...in the faces of children gathered for Children's Time and the rest of the Sunday liturgy each week.

...in the increasingly concrete plans that are developing to provide housing for neighbors in need.

...in the lives of senior adults who continue to worship faithfully.

...in the fellowship with one another where

lives and stories, hopes and dreams are spoken and heard.

...in the eager faces and open hands that come to the table to receive the

Risen One in bread and cup each Sunday.

...in the welcome you offer to visitors who come to worship with us here.

...in the faithful service of staff and volunteers.

...in the gifts that are gathered to create hygiene kits for brothers and sisters in Christ who we will never meet.

...in all of this and so much more.

Are you getting the picture? Can you see what I see? I feel truly blessed to have this brief time among you to serve as pastor and to see the Risen Christ in all of these and so many other ministries, people, and examples of faithful living.

As this month of March draws to a close, our final Sunday will be celebrated as Easter. There will be joyful songs and vibrant worship. The bare sanctuary of Lent will give way to the festively dressed church of resurrection; mournful purple replaced by Christly white, folded grave clothes. There will be lilies, and smiles. And we will see the Risen Christ all around us.

But in all the days between one Easter and the next, I hope you will see what I see. The Risen Christ is alive and among us every day.

Risen Lord Christ, gives us eyes to see.

And speaking of seeing...

See you in church,

Pastor Hoffman

LMLC News and Events

New LMLC Council

Congratulations to Laurie Baughman and Steve Olson who were elected to serve on your Congregational Council at our Annual Meeting! The new Council was installed at worship on Sunday, February 21st.



With give thanks for the faithful service of Kris Johansson, and Katy Sarff, as their terms on Council have come to a close.

LMLC 2016-2017 Council (February 2016 - January 2017)

President	Steve Olson	Additional Members	
Vice President	Dave Ter Hark	Pastor Hoffman	Mary Hinderliter
Secretary	Laura Steinmetz	(Feb - May)	Elaine Hardin
Treasurer	Stephanie Bloom	Pastor Hutson	Donna Smith
		(June - Jan)	Laurie Baughman
		Raj Lingappaiah	

Other Elected Committees, Delegates, and Representatives

Nominating Committee

Gordon Trombley Bill Meade
 Kris Johansson Heidi Gough
 Katy Sarff

NW Washington Synod Assembly Representatives and Alternates

Voting: Gordon Trombley and Katy Sarff
Alternates: TBA and Lori Gunby

Broadview Community Council

Dave and Tara Ter Hark

Columbia Lutheran Ministries Delegates

Diane Chapman and Lollie Ellingson

Foss Home & Village Delegates

Mary Hinderliter and Eric Zoekler

Financial Review Committee

Karen Senior
 Diane MacKechnie
 Diane Chapman

Compass Housing Alliance Delegate

Bob Johnson

ELCA Global Missions Advocate

Mary Walters

ELCA World Hunger Representative

Sunday Church School (Donna Smith, Advisor)

Thrivent Financial Lutherans Liaison

Norman Swenson

The Hearthstone Delegate

Norman Swenson

Lutherwood Camp & Retreat Center Delegate

Diane Chapman

Lutheran Community Services NW Representative

Lollie Ellingson

LMLC News and Events

Stewardship Living - by Norman Swenson

Luther Memorial's annual congregational meeting was held on January 31. Among the other items on the agenda was the usual review of the congregation's finances for the past year and the adoption of a budget for 2016. There are several sources of the funds received during the year but the greatest amount is from contributions for the general fund by members and friends. We know that we will need more funds in 2016 than we received in 2015.



Giving is a demonstration of God's grace. It is a privilege and needs to be regular and systematic. The Bible states that our giving should be proportionate to our income and circumstances. Many of us have made a personal commitment to contribute an amount or a percentage of our income to Luther Memorial during 2016. Have you made your pledge?

About 45% of our giving units are retired members, some married and some single. I believe that those members contribute quite a bit more than 45% of our general fund contributions. It is important for all of us to keep in mind that the future of any congregation depends on those of us who are younger and hopefully have growing ability to increase their yearly offering to God's work. May our giving lead us to give thanks to God for all that we have received.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE MEMBERS OF THRIVENT FINANCIAL:

More than forty members of the congregation have Thrivent Financial insurance related policies or investments of which 20 are eligible to participate in the Choice Dollars program each year. Eligible members are those who have insurance related policies. An amount is allocated to the member by Thrivent based on the amount of premiums paid. These Choice Dollars can be allocated by the member to a charitable organization. Luther Memorial is a qualified recipient. Last year only 8 of our eligible members participated. For the 8 who made the allocation election, Thrivent distributed \$988. Probably the largest amount was to Luther Memorial. Whatever was allocated to the account of the eligible member for the year of 2015 will expire by March 31, 2016. Please contact Thrivent by phone 800-847-4836 or Thrivent.com/thriventchoice before March 31 to direct any remaining balance in your account. While you may want to direct some or all to another qualified recipient, please consider directing your Choice Dollars to Luther Memorial.

Thrivent Choice

LMLC News and Events

First Sunday Faith Forum: *WIDE WELCOME* with Pastor Hoffman

How do congregations organize their ministries to be welcoming to those outside the church? How about to those who have never heard of the saving love of God in Christ?

It is to questions such as these that Pastor Hoffman orients congregations as he travels about the country. On March 6 at 9, we'll have the opportunity to engage in a this conversation with him right here in our own Fireside Room.

The forty-five minute forum will include excerpts from his newest book, *WELCOME ONE ANOTHER*, as well as an entertaining video that helps us see how much we assume about how wide our welcome really is. Finally, we'll take a few minutes to share some insights about our own ministry and ways we can swing the door even wider than it already is.

Spring Forward, for Daylight Saving Time

Sunday, March 13th we "spring forward." Set your clocks an hour ahead before bedtime on Saturday night, or you'll miss a wonderful day of worship at LMLC!



Spruce up the church for Easter!

On Saturday, March 12th, we will have a Work Party from 9 am to 3 pm. There is much to do, but many hands make light work. Tasks are needed for all abilities, ages, and skill levels. All are invited to come help! Lunch will be provided by Gordon Trombley, which in itself is a reason to come!

In Memoriam:

In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection we commend to Almighty God these sisters and brothers in Christ...

Carl Kerton, who died on February 14th. Carl is the son of Jill Kerton, a service will be held near their home in Graham, WA.

Dorothy Smith, who died on February 24th. Dorothy is the wife of Warren Smith, service information will be made available, once it is known.



Rest eternal grant them, O God, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

LMLC News and Events

Easter Sunday Breakfast

Our annual Easter Sunday Breakfast will be on March 27, 2016 from 8:00 - 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

All proceeds go to Camp Lutherwood with matching funds from LMLC Endowment Fund.

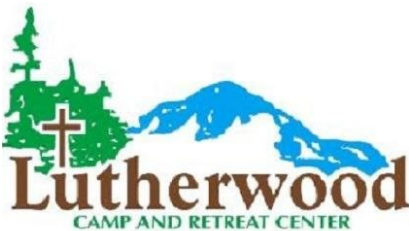


Flowering of the Crosses

Bring loose flowers from your garden or the store for the traditional flowering of the crosses, during Easter Breakfast. This is a beautiful LMLC tradition, that is appreciated by all that come join us for worship that day.



2016 Camp Lutherwood Day Camp



Don't forget to mark your calendars for 2016 Day Camp with the Camp Lutherwood Staff!

June 27 - 30, 2016

9am - 2pm

4 year old - 5th grade

This will be the fourth year the young people have been able to enjoy the Camp Lutherwood Day Camp!!

Thank You!

...to Mary Hinderliter and Donna Smith, for helping to get the Lent Seasonal Bulletins put together and in the pews.

...to the Ter Hark Family, Bill and Laurie Mead, Darrel and Sandy Jamieson, and Donna Smith, for their hard work putting together and serving our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!

...to Donna Smith, Vicki Cook, Pastor Hoffman, and Katy Sarff, for providing the soup suppers for Lenten Midweek Worship in February.

...to Kelsey Larson for her wonderful flute accompaniment for Holden Evening Prayer on February 17th.



LMLC News and Events

Lent and Holy Week Mid-Week Services

Our special mid-week seasonal services for Lent have gotten off to a great start in February. For the month of March, services will be held on the following dates and times.



Lenten Mid-week III, Wednesday, March 2nd

Pray for those in need

Soup is on at 6; Holden Evening Prayer at 6:45

Friends from Broadview Community UCC will join us.

Pastor Gary Southerton preaching

Lenten Mid-week IV, Wednesday, March 9th

Fast from self-indulgence

Soup is on at 6; Holden Evening Prayer at 6:45

Friends from Broadview Community UCC will join us.

Pastor Paul Hoffman preaching

Lenten Mid-week V, Wednesday, March 16th

Find treasure in the life of Jesus

Soup is on at 6; Holden Evening Prayer at 6:45

Friends from Broadview Community UCC will join us.

Pastor Gary Southerton preaching

Maundy Thursday, Thursday, March 24th

Service of Holy Communion

followed by Stripping of the Altar

Service at 7 p.m. NO SOUP SUPPER

Vicar Michael Trice preaching

Good Friday, Friday, March 25th

Service of Stations of the Cross

Service at 7 p.m. NO SOUP SUPPER

Pastor Paul Hoffman preaching

Easter Sunday, Sunday, March 27th

Festival Worship Service

LMLC Traditional Easter Breakfast and Flowering of the Crosses starts at 8 am

Worship at 10 am

Vicar Michael Trice Preaching

LMLC News and Events

Operation Brown Bag- What goes in a lunch?

Ever wonder what is in the sack lunches we hand out Monday-Friday, 10 am—Noon? Our volunteers try very hard to have a well-rounded sack lunch for the hungry that come by for this program. The lunches are made out of these options, depending on the donations we receive from you! 1 of each from the following goes in a typical sack lunch.



If you'd like to donate supplies, please drop them off on the counter in Katie's Parish. If you'd like to MAKE lunches, please email/call the office to get starting directions. Lunches can be made at any time that you have available to volunteer!

- **Proteins** - Small can of Vienna sausage or tuna or a tuna or chicken salad lunch/cracker kit. Must be able to be opened without a can opener.
- **Fruit** - Fruit cup, applesauce, raisins, or fruit leather.
- **Drink** - Juice box, or pouch. Additional bottle of water, when available.
- **Dessert** - Pudding cup or small pack of cookies.
- **Grains** - Small bag of chips or package of crackers, and/or a granola bar.
- **Care Items** - Currently (cold weather season) we hand out hand warmers, tissues, and hats/gloves when we have them.

We are so appreciative that our congregation has continually donated to this important outreach ministry to our neighborhood! Some days we have as many as 10-15 hungry people that come to our window, needing a meal.

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.

More info about the Phinney Ridge Food Bank can be found at: prlc.org/we-serve/food-bank/

LMLC Name Tags:

PLEASE wear your name tag, so Vicar Michael and Pastor Hoffman can get to know us by face and name. If you need a name tag, please leave a note in the box on the office door, or email the office. If you have a pacemaker, you should not wear a magnetic nametag, so please let the office know you need a pin, clip, or lanyard style nametag instead.

LMLC News and Events

Luther Memorial Easter Lily Donations

13047 Greenwood Avenue North, Seattle, Washington 98133 | 206.364.2510

Easter Lilies can be given in memory or in honor of someone special to you. The cost is \$70; please make checks payable to LMLC with *Easter Lily* in the memo line, cash can be put in an envelope similarly marked, or contributions can be made online through our website:

www.luthermemorialsattle.com/onlinegiving - please note it as a dedication where indicated on the site. Cash or Check Donations may be placed in the offering plate, or mailed to the church office. Please include this dedication form with your donation.

The last day to make a donation will be Sunday, March 20.

All lilies will be placed in the Sanctuary for Easter morning.

I wish to donate ___ lilies at \$70 each.

Your name:

In memory of

honor of:

In memory of

honor of:

In memory of

honor of:

Vicar's View

New experiences are best approached with modesty and confidence. As I have grown a bit older (and I hope wiser!), this has certainly been the case. Now, just a couple of years from 50, I don't think modesty and confidence can fail us. Being a Vicar requires both, and for good reason!

Most of the internship or vicarage sites in the ELCA include persons who are in their second or third career. This means that these individuals can be confident insofar as they bring experiential wisdom to their new undertaking in the life of the Church, with significant potential for transferability of skillsets. Sure, this is true. And yet, having said that – and here comes the modesty part – being a Vicar is not at all like these former realities, no matter how transferable the skillsets. Working in the church on a regular basis, addressing pressing ministerial matters, testing out different ways of preaching a homily or sermon, and so on, are nearly guaranteed to be nothing like these formerly accrued skillsets that are such a cause for confidence. This is certainly true in my case as well; let me give an example.

I am a professor of theology who trains tomorrow's students in a seminary and university context; but, and this is important for me to remember, being a professor and being a member of the clergy are truly distinct from one another. True, we are all together in the Church – from laypersons to pastors and professors – but we are also *uniquely* together. I am learning that my students' questions in the classroom are not the same as the ones we ask together on a Sunday morning. Likewise, you and I can share a story that is relevant to the Gospel, which also speaks differently than in a more formal classroom setting.

Some of you have asked if I'm planning to give up university life and become a pastor in the congregation. Actually, I'm hoping to be able to do both, because my sense is that the knowing both aspects of our lives together is a benefit to the whole Church. But enough about my experiences and plans, let's talk about you. You see, you are the ones giving me the gift of confidence by your examples.

You are all teaching me so much about yourselves and your lives, about how you gather (both before and after the service, and with coffee!), about your shared stories (I learned from one of you recently that your grandmother arrived as an immigrant in Washington D.C. on the morning after President Lincoln's assassination.), and about your readiness to participate in the service each Sunday. And this is the point I want to make about the confidence you are giving me: Each Sunday you participate in Eucharistic sharing; we take Communion together, and share a word of peace. Where else do we have an opportunity to be this kind of community, alongside one another? Life is pressing and there are plenty of challenges to be had, and yet each Sunday there you are together again, and I am moved by your walking toward the Table again. Your modest confidence in how meaningful this time is for you helps teach me about the heart of belonging together in the one Body of Christ.

I am grateful for this experience alongside you, which is perhaps the best response to drawing on the modest confidence of others. You are a gifted group, and I am learning in your midst. Thank you for that gift!

-Vicar Michael Trice

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.

February 2016

Preliminary Financial Picture as of 2/21/16

Data is not finalized and is subject to reconciliation.

LMLC 2016 Full Year Expenses:	Contributions Needed per week :
\$228, 513	\$4,394.50

February Contributions Received:

February 7:	\$6,435.67	February 21:	\$4,189.35
February 14:	\$2,241.00	February 28:	TBD

February Budget Fund Contribution Designations

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Unpledged Offerings and Tithes	\$6,065.28
Pledged Offerings and Tithes	\$1,710.07
Gifts other than Offerings	\$4,088.67
Room Use <i>(Room Use, Damage Deposits, and Facilities Offset Fees)</i>	\$400.00
Income - Other <i>(Fred Meyer Rewards, AmazonSmile, eScrip, etc.)</i>	\$280.00
General Fund Total Contributions as of 2/21/16:	\$12,544.02

Needed as of 2/21/16 (3 weeks): \$13,183.50 Difference: -\$639.48

February Off-Budget Fund Contribution Designations

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
World Hunger	\$40.00
Easter Lilies	\$20.00
Sunday School - Special Projects	\$19.00
Fruits of the Spirit Breakfasts	\$45.00
Shrove Tuesday and Midweek Lenten Offerings <i>(will be collected until the end of Lent and sent to Mary's Place and the Phinney Ridge Food Bank)</i>	\$198.00
Designated Fund Total Contributions as of 2/21/16:	\$322.00

PJ's Page - Updates from Sabbatical

Ash Wednesday found me arriving 45 minutes early for worship, seated in the sanctuary of a place entirely unfamiliar to me. St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco came to be rather well known through the book "Take This Bread" written by Sara Miles. It's a beautiful story of how she found community AND Jesus at the Eucharistic table. I was drawn to include worship at St. Gregory in my sabbatical because of what I had read in Sara Miles' book. This tome, the first of several from Miles, received rave reviews. The Christian Century wrote: "In Take This Bread, we find hope that an invigorated, incarnate and imaginative Christianity is emerging from the political battlefields. Moving, delightful, and significant." Worshipping here was a significant part of why I'd come to San Francisco. No wonder I was 45 minutes early.

St. Gregory's is not the "typical" Episcopal congregation. There are LOTS of icons and candles and the painted images of 90 saints dance along the walls of this place. The worship leaders wear garments unfamiliar to me, printed in ancient patterns. The preacher delivers the sermon while seated on a large, ornate bench. There is much incense. There is much kneeling on the hard concrete floor. There are large expanses of silence.

Because I was so early, I was let into the building by two women who were the building caretakers. They were outside tending to the early garden planting on an unseasonably warm February Wednesday. After taking in the rich and unusual beauty, I settled into a seat to wait and pray. I thought to myself that I would miss very much marking your foreheads with ashes. That I would miss saying to you "remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." Each time I say those

words I am reminded of how we are bound together by the love of God in Christ, for this life and the next. You were very much on my mind as I sat alone in that space.

Before long, the worship leaders wandered in to prepare....one by one. There were five of them in all. I recognized the rector (Senior pastor in Lutheran terms) from the St. Gregory website. He moved some things around – adjusted chairs and giant singing bowls and chimes. After he left the space, another worship leader came in. She did the same thing, essentially un-doing all that the rector had done. After she moved on, a third person came in, dressed in worship leader's garments, and he too moved everything around. By now I was amused. I fairly laughed aloud when the rector returned and moved things back to his desired place, followed by a fourth person who came in and moved them around yet again!

Eventually the service began and the chairs and bowls and chimes must have been in a suitable position, or at least in the position they'd last been set. There was no bulletin or order of service. Everyone moved QUICKLY...and the instructions were spoken rapidly. "Kneel to pray" "Stand and sing." Chimes and bells and drums punctuated the spaces in between. Everyone seemed to know what each chime and bell and drum beat signified....except me. I could make a theologically educated guess, but it was still a guess.

I began to yearn for our ordo, the way we worship. This feeling like an outsider did not wear well with me. I thought about those who visit us and wondered about the ways and times they might also feel like an outsider.

PJ's Page - Updates from Sabbatical

I confess, that at this point, I began to feel disappointed. I had such high hopes for my time in this place and I did not feel Jesus present anywhere. Was Sara Miles just making all of this up? How could my experience be so different from the luminous one she described so publicly in her book? Where was she anyway? Her photo was not on the church's website and I'd not looked for it. But now I wanted to talk to her.

And then....in the midst of all of my lamenting and my judgment (yes, judgment)....grace broke through. When it came time for the imposition of ashes, the priest invited us to mark one another and to say those familiar words, the words that remind us that we are dust. So, although it was not with you, my beloved community, the hand and head of a stranger became the heart of Christ at that moment.

Soon we moved to the table....singing and walking in rhythm.....circling the altar/table as we went. And suddenly, above us, my eyes were drawn to those 90 dancing saints....joining us there. As unfamiliar as it was to come to the table in this way, it was wondrous. I was no longer an outsider, for I was one of the communion of saints.

Draw Near! Draw Near! a worship leader invited us. And the circle closed in to hear the story of this mystery of the Word made flesh. And we served one another bread and wine.

The service ended with the Confession and Forgiveness, as we were invited to go to one another, join hands, and say "Please forgive me. I am a sinner" and respond with "God forgives you. Go in peace." The people began to move into this

pattern, and we did not finish until we had experienced this exchange with every person there. It was profoundly moving, for each time I heard someone say to me "God forgives you" it was as new as the first time. We cannot be reminded of this gift of grace often enough. God forgives us.

It would be an understatement to say that my experience of St. Gregory's was more than I had imagined it would be. More unfamiliar. More disconcerting. More uncomfortable. But the message of the Gospel is in many ways also uncomfortable. That no matter what we have done or left undone, God forgives us. That sometimes we know what we are doing and sometimes we have no idea. That there are days when it feels that someone has rearranged everything we had so carefully set up, just the way we like it. But Jesus always shows up, no matter how unexpectedly. In a circle of dancing saints, past and present. In a stranger who marks us with ash and speaks forgiveness. In caretakers, tending the garden and opening the doors. And in the invitation...*Draw Near! Draw Near!*

With great hope,
Pastor Julie+

Post script ~ In searching for a verbatim review for this article, I went to Sara Mile's website, where her photo is found. It turns out she was the worship leader inviting us to "Draw near! Draw near!"

In more mundane, but equally marvelous news: this sabbatical has been wonderfully restful! San Francisco was sunny and 70 degrees for the entire week!

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.

March 2016

1 We remember in our prayers, especially during spring, congregations and communities subject to severe weather and flooding, that God will guide their emergency preparations, equip them to care for their neighbors and grant them safety.

2 We give thanks for the more than \$15 million raised during the ELCA Malaria Campaign and ask God to strengthen and bless the continuing successful efforts of our partners and their health-related projects.

3 In our Lenten reflections, we are keenly aware of our many troubles, sins and shortcomings, yet we rejoice in God's forgiveness and love that surrounds and upholds us day and night.

4 We remember in our prayers the Gettysburg and Philadelphia Lutheran seminaries as they begin the process of creating a unified school of theology for preparing Christian leaders for the church and world.

5 We pray for God's blessings on the critical work in HIV and AIDS ministry that Mary Beth and Bayo Oyebade are doing in Nigeria as ELCA missionaries.

6 We remember in our prayers, with thanksgiving and relief, that God seeks us when we are lost or have strayed and celebrates our awkward return as did the father in Jesus' parable of the lost son.

7 We have many brothers and sisters – of all ages – who live with physical and cognitive disabilities. We ask God to broaden our awareness of, and appreciation for, the faith and diverse gifts they bring to our communities and to the body of Christ.

8 We pray on this International Women's Day that God's holy and life-giving Spirit moves every human heart, that the barriers dividing us may crumble and hatreds cease so we might live in justice and peace.

9 As we continue our self-reflection during Lent, we ask God to help us look beyond ourselves and into the

lives of people around us and in other nations, guiding us to actions of care and justice in the manner and name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Savior and servant.

10 We remember in our prayers the work and faithful witness of the Rev. Dorcas Wang, an ELCA missionary serving in the Republic of China.

11 We ask God to bless and inspire Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's leadership, especially in helping our church address the issues of racism, racial disparity in the criminal justice system, care for the incarcerated and their families, advocacy for those wrongly convicted, and support and guidance for those who enforce the law and work in the justice system.

12 We remember in our prayers and ask God to bless and guide the work of the seven young adults serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Argentina and Uruguay.

13 In our baptism, we experience the freedom that can only come through the power of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. For this undeserved gift of love, we give thanks.

14 We give thanks to God for the generous grant the ELCA has received from the Lilly Endowment to help fund an initiative to address the financial and economic struggles that often prevent pastors from leading congregations effectively.

15 We remember in our prayers all those who support and empower international women leaders in the life and development of this church and our communities. We pray to be awakened to the power and capacity our sisters have in transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

16 Whether gathered for a Lenten meal or worship, we pray that our thoughts and reflections will be on Jesus and that we will trust and follow Jesus no matter where he leads or how difficult the journey.

17 On this St. Patrick's Day, we give thanks to God for

ELCA Prayer Ventures

our brothers and sisters who respond to God's call to serve as missionaries in the world. We ask God to fill them with love and respect for the people and communities they serve and with a tireless enthusiasm to share the gospel.

18 The prayerful words of the psalmist in ancient times still holds meaning for our prayers today – "Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."

19 We remember in our prayers the leaders in our congregations – rostered and lay – who commit themselves to sharing the gospel, deepening our faith, and equipping and sending us to do God's work in the world.

20 *Palm Sunday* Christ defies our images of him as a conquering king, powerful religious leader or just another prophet. We pray that we receive, by faith, Jesus as our Savior, messiah, servant and son of God – the fulfillment of God's loving promises to us.

21 *Monday of Holy Week* Mary of Bethany was extravagant in her love for Jesus and her anointing of him before his death. We pray that we too may not be shy or embarrassed in our witness and worship, especially in telling others of Jesus' life, suffering, death and resurrection for our sake.

22 We remember in our prayers the ELCA International Women Leaders scholarship recipients Abby Lai, Elisa Pérez-Trejo, Lynette Lee, Melissa Neo, Sarah Abendanon and Sthela Hanitrinirina, that God will bless them and guide and inspire their studies.

23 We ask God to grant us daily strength and courage to speak of our faith and act as the gospel urges us and to resist the temptation to stay quiet or hide the light of Jesus Christ.

24 *Maundy Thursday* It's difficult to be humble and serve people in this day and age, especially in a society that belittles such behaviors as signs of weakness. We ask God to remind us of Jesus'

example when he washed the feet of his disciples and embolden us to do likewise for our neighbors and those in need.

25 *Good Friday* Again faced with the story of Jesus' betrayal, judgment, suffering, torture and disgraceful public death, we humble ourselves before God and plead for forgiveness, asking that God reassure us of Jesus' boundless, sacrificial love for all humanity.

26 *Vigil of Easter* We confess our times of disbelief and uncertain faith in Jesus and ask God to embolden us as witnesses – imperfect as we are – to run and share, as Mary Magdalene did, the good news of Jesus Christ in whom we have forgiveness and new life.

27 *Easter Day* Christ is risen! We rejoice and ask God's Spirit to dispel our doubts, fears and suspicions and fill us with faith and amazement over God's miraculous love for us.

28 This day and every day, we offer prayers of wonder and praise for the presence of God in our lives, especially when we least expect it or doubt God's power and creativity to effect change in our lives and world.

29 We remember in our prayers and ask God to bless and further the leadership development work of the Rev. Chad and Natalie Rimmer, ELCA missionaries in Senegal.

30 We give thanks for the poets of the church who speak from their heart, spirit and life experiences and inspire our faith and imagination through creative means.

31 We remember on this day when some states celebrate Cesar Chavez Day, the leaders, advocates and activists who are moved to work for the wellbeing and just treatment of all people, especially those who labor under difficult conditions and whose voices are often neglected.

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

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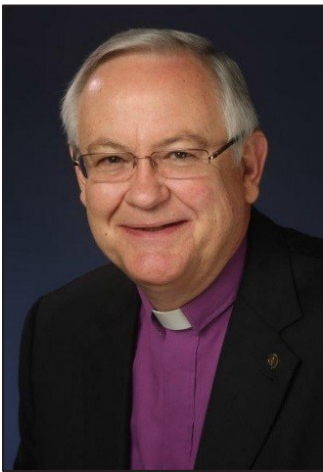
Always
being made
New.

25 YEARS TOGETHER IN CHRIST

The Spirit

Has the Church Run Out of Wine?

by the Rev. Kirby Unti, Bishop



In January I had the joy of presiding at the installation of Pr. Tim Feiertag at Trinity Lutheran Church in Everett, WA. The Biblical Story for the day was the Wedding at Cana in Galilee. It was the assigned text and so fitting because in the Book of John the Wedding at Cana was Jesus' Installation service.

I began by telling the story of Johnny Carson interviewing a little boy who had just heard the Cana Story in Sunday school. When Johnny

asked him what he learned from the story the little boy said, "If you are going to have a wedding you better invite Jesus!"

You may know the story. It was the third day of the celebration when the news reached Jesus that the party had run out of wine. Jewish weddings were known to go on for days. I can only imagine the number of guests who would have decided to call it quits and head home. I am confident others would have let their disappointment be made known. It must have been crushing for the bride and groom.

Jesus' mother knows that the hour has come for her son to do what he was sent into the world to do – to restore the world to the fullness of life. When she lets Jesus know, "They have no wine," Jesus tells the servants to take the six jars which held between 20-30 gallons of water for the Jewish purification rites and to

fill them. Following the admonition of Jesus' mother, "Do whatever he tells you to do." They fill the jars to the brim.

Jesus then instructs them to draw some out and bring it to the master of the banquet who discovers upon tasting it that it is the finest of wine.

This takes the master by total surprise because nobody brings out the best wine near the end of the party. You always serve the best wine first.

Not Jesus.

No, Jesus is at his best when we are desperate. When we finally run out. When we are empty. When our party is all but over Jesus appears. When Jesus comes he not only provides, he provides abundantly – to the brim.

Has it ever dawned on you that the best that life has to offer is still to come?

Risking this possibility - how might it change the way you enter the future?

Imagine how this could change the way we live life in our congregations and ministry sites.

The best is yet to come if we are willing to invite Jesus to the party!

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

ELCA World Hunger Grants

(From a recent ELCA World Hunger Blog Article)

ELCA World Hunger Education and Networking Grants are designed to support local projects and programs in ELCA congregations, groups and/ or synods. The grant opportunity encourages ELCA congregations, groups and/ or synods to think creatively about educating, mobilizing, and expanding their networks to increase awareness of and engagement with the root causes of and solutions to hunger.

Education grants can be used for events, educational programs or the development of shareable resources. For networking proposals, congregation- based and synod-wide hunger leadership events and trainings will be prioritized.

Proposals must be submitted by a non-profit charitable organization classified as a 501(c)(3) public charity by the Internal Revenue Service, or organization that operates under the fiscal sponsorship of a 501(c)(3).

PROPOSAL SECTIONS AND FORMAT

All proposals must include the following items. **For full details, how to submit proposal, and to be sure your application is in order, please see the directions at:**

www.lutheransnw.org/files/committees/2016_elca_world_hunger_education_and_networking_grants.pdf

Background and Context - a brief (2-3 paragraphs) description of your congregation, group or organization and a narrative of the context in which the project, event or initiative will take place. This should clearly show what your program, congregation or group is attempting to address and how the proposal relates to the current priorities of ELCA World Hunger Education and Networking.

Project Summary - a description of how the project, event or initiative will:

- Educate and engage ELCA congregations, groups, and/ or synods;
- Influence this church body toward better action and engagement against hunger and poverty; and
- Encourage sustainable participation in the anti- hunger work of ELCA World Hunger past the conclusion of the project, event or initiative.

3. Project Goals, Objectives, Outcomes & Outputs— a brief statement that summarizes the direction and focus of the program and defines the scope:

What are you hoping to accomplish? Who will be your audience?

How many people will be affected?

What will participants learn by participating? What actions will participants do together, begin or carry out in their congregations, synods or communities after the event or training?

How will you measure the success of your project?

What activities will be completed in what specific time period?

What will change in the lives of participants or in your community because of this project?

Will your project create a story, resource, or learning that can be shared with the broader Church? If so, how will this be shared?

Project Plan and Timeline - a brief description of how the project will be implemented and funded with a projected timeline; if the project is ongoing, what is your plan for sustainable funding for the life of the project?

Budget - a clear statement of the amount of funding you are seeking and describe how you came to that amount. You may also use this section to further explain why you need this cost covered, if you believe that is not clear from the proposal.

Contact Information - the organization's name, address, contact person, email, phone number, and tax ID number.

ELCA Letter of Support - all proposals must include a letter of support from an ELCA pastor, bishop, synod or churchwide organization staff person or Lutheran agency/institution.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ELCA World Hunger Education and Networking Grants, in general, cannot be used to support international travel.
- If your proposal involves direct service, you may want to consider ELCA World Hunger's Domestic Hunger Grant program. In general, this is a more appropriate granting opportunity for direct service activities.
- If your group is seeking a grant to support a service learning experience, please include a detailed summary of your plans for preparing the participants and debriefing with the group after the event. proposals must be received by December 31, 2016, to be considered for funding.

If you have any questions please email:
hunger@ELCA.org.

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

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 April issue due to the Synod Office by March 8

March Worship

Worship Leaders

	3/6	3/13	3/20 - Palm Sunday	3/27 - Easter
Preacher	Vicar Michael	Pastor Hoffman	Passion Readings	Vicar Michael
Assisting Minister	Kelsey Larson	Steve Olson	Gordon Trombley	Katy Sarff
Lector	Eric Zoekler	Phyllis Swenson	n/a	Tom Baker
Acolyte	Donna Smith	Gavin Gough	Payton Johnson	Jackson Ter Hark
Communion & Altar	TBD			
Greeters and Ushers	Heidi, Gavin, and Kyle Gough	Lollie Ellingson Lynne Greenup	Laurie Meade Bill Meade	Gordon Trombley Steve Olson
Song Leaders	Vicki Cook	Kris Johansson	Heidi Gough	Julie Moe
Crucifer	Gordon Trombley	Vicar Michael	Steve Olson	Vicar Michael
Children's Time	Pastor Hoffman	Heidi Gough	Vicar Michael	Pastor Hoffman
Welcome Center	Vicki Cook	Mary Smith	Diane Chapman	Randi Jacobs
Opener	Steph Bloom	Steve Olson	Dave Ter Hark	Kris Johansson
Closer	Gordon Trombley	Donna Smith	Steph Bloom	Gordon Trombley
Musician	Lennon Aldort			

Holy Week

	3/24 - Maundy Thursday	3/25 - Good Friday
Preacher	Vicar Michael	Pastor Hoffman
Assisting Minister	Steve Olson	Vicar Michael
Lectors	Gordon Trombley	Norman Swenson
Acolyte/Verger	Gordon Trombley	
Communion & Altar	TBD	
Greeter/Usher	Lollie Ellingson	Steve Olson
Opener/Closer	Katy Sarff	
Musician	Claire Smith	Lennon Aldort

Banner Bearers

Don Bannister
Ethan Bannister

Flowered Cross Bearers

Laurie Meade
Diane Chapman
Sharon Howell

March Worship

Lectionary Readings

**March 6 |
Lent 4**

Josh 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Cor 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**March 13 |
Lent 5**

Isa 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Phil 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

**March 20 |
Passion/Palm Sunday**

Isa 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Phil 2:5-11
Luke 22:14-23:56

**March 27 |
Easter Sunday**

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Cor 15:19-26
Luke 24:1-12

**March 24 |
Maundy Thursday**

Exod 12:1-4, 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Cor 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**March 25 |
Good Friday**

Isa 52:13-53:12
Psalm 22
Heb 10:16-25
John 18:1-19:42

Happy March Birthdays!

3 Bonnie Kaiser
5 Ryan Harveland
Emily Meade
6 Heidi Sallaway
7 Elaine Hardin
Shirley Yandl
11 Owen Lynn


12 Nancy Sandbloom
16 Claralou Hinderliter
20 Asta Axelson
Norman Swenson
21 Karen Senior
23 Jackson Ter Hark

25 Mary Ellen St. Claire
26 Chandra Johnson
Vicar Michael Trice
27 Gavin Gough
31 Ryan Lynn
Naomi Steele

Congrats to our March Anniversary!

March 2016

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</p> <p>9 First Sunday Faith Forum and Sunday School 10 Worship 11:30 Fellowship 3 Emmanuel Charisma Church</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9-12 Pastor Hoffman Office Hours 6 Girl Scouts 6:45 Music Monday</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9-12 Pastor Hoffman Office Hours 9:30 Seekers 6:30 Cub Scouts 6 Lenten Soup Supper 6:45 Holden Evening Prayer 7 Nar-Anon</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 Cub Scouts 7 Broadview Garden Club</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:30 FARA 9-3 LMLC Work Party</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time</p> <p>9 Sunday Church School and Choir Rehearsal 10 Worship 11:30 Fellowship 3 Emmanuel Charisma Church</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9-12 Pastor Hoffman Office Hours 1:30 Book Brigade</p>	<p>15</p> <p>1-4 Pastor Hoffman Office Hours 6 LMLC Council 6:30 Broadview Community Council</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:30 Seekers 6 Lenten Soup Supper 6:45 Holden Evening Prayer 7 Nar-Anon</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30 FARA 8-5:30 Irish Heritage Club Event</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Passion/Palm Sunday</p> <p>9 Sunday Church School and Choir Rehearsal 10 Worship <i>Last day for Easter Lily donations</i> 11:30 Fellowship 3 Emmanuel Charisma Church</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9-12 Pastor Hoffman Office Hours 6 Girl Scouts</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7 Spiritual Growth Meeting</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9-12 Pastor Hoffman Office Hours 9:30 Seekers 7 Nar-Anon</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Maunder Thursday 7 Maunder Thursday Worship</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Good Friday 7 Good Friday Worship</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30 FARA</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Easter Sunday</p> <p>8-9:30 Easter Pancake Breakfast and Flowering of the Crosses 9 Choir Rehearsal 10 Worship 11:30 Fellowship 3 Emmanuel Charisma Church</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6 Cub Scouts Pack 321</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:30 Seekers 7 Nar-Anon</p>	<p>31</p> <p>3-5 Pastor Hoffman Office Hours</p>	<p><i>Missing a Sunday this month? We now have Online Giving on our website: www.luthermemorialsseattle.com/onlinegiving</i></p>	