



LUTHER MEMORIAL lutheran church



Messenger

April 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's Sanctuary early Easter morning.
Thanks to Lollie Ellingson for hemming the large cloth for the cross, and thanks to Pastor Hoffman for this great picture!**

THE LUTHER MEMORIAL MESSENGER

published by Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
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April 15 is the deadline for articles in the **May** 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

Try to think of it more as a way of being than as a single Sunday in springtime. Easter, that is. Try this, “what does it mean to live a life of resurrection?”

If we think of Easter as only one day, it's hard to let it be the life-giving, life-changing gift that it is. The ancient church gives us some help with that. They've never thought of Easter as a day, but as a season – lasting all the way until the day before Pentecost.

If you're a fan of fun math facts, here's a good one for you. This Church season of Easter is often referred to as The Great Fifty Days. To get to fifty, you have to include both Easter and Pentecost. The actual season of Easter is therefore forty-nine days, or a “week of weeks.” Seven is seen in Scripture as the number of perfection, completion. Seven days of creation, for example, which got that whole ball rolling.

What does all this have to do with “what does it mean to live a life of resurrection?”

I think that the Church year gives us these forty-nine days

to rehearse our resurrection life-style. Every Sunday in the Easter season when we gather, our Scriptural texts and our liturgies remind us: *Hey! It's Easter. Still.*

That week-of-weeks season gives us a pretty substantial chunk of the year to get our minds wrapped around the question. What *does* it mean to live a life of resurrection?

Every one of us will answer that differently, of course. God has made us each unique. But there are some common strains in the thoughts of the faithful that bind us to one another and to our Risen Lord Jesus. Resurrection life is a life lived without fear. What's there to be afraid of anymore, after all? The worst that could happen – death – has been obliterated. Wiped away. Christ is risen. Christ is risen INDEED.

A life lived more fearlessly frees us up to think less about ourselves and more about others. That's what Jesus did. He thought first about us (all of us, not some chosen few!) and God answered Christ's faithfulness with the gift of resurrection. Truly, there is nothing left to fear.

So why, then, do we continue to live in a world of suffering? Hunger? Poverty? Violence? Death?

It's because we forget. We forget that we are called to live a life of resurrection, and just like the Israelites who tried to save up the manna God freely gave them, we hoard God's good gifts for ourselves and forget that God has already taken care of us. The resurrection proves it.

The root of all the world's suffering, death, hunger,

poverty, violence, death? A world turned in on itself. A world that forgets that God is our protector, our endless giver, our *life*.

The week of weeks of the Easter season spreads itself before us. It's a time to read

and learn, listen and pray as each weekly worship brings us more good news about the Risen One and about how the first people of the resurrection learned to live with lives turned outward, toward others. They're great teachers, those first Christians. And we're great teachers for one another, too.

I look forward to all you have to share with me, and all that I can learn from you in the coming Easter season. I look forward to singing and praying, eating and drinking together every Easter Sunday morning so that together we can learn from one another what it means to live a life of resurrection, not just a day. So...

See you in Church,
Pastor Hoffman



LMLC News and Events

First Sunday Faith Forum: **WORSHIP MATTERS** with Pastor Hoffman Sunday, April 3, 2016 - 9 am in the Fireside Room

Someone once quipped about our hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship: *It's seems a great deal like my smart phone. I get the feeling that there's a whole bunch or stuff in there I should know about, but I just don't know how to get to it.*



April's First Sunday Faith Forum, under the leadership of Pastor Hoffman, will take a look at the riches that lie between the covers of the ELW. The questions "what's in there?" and "how do I get at it?" will both be addressed. There will be particular attention given to the Biblical roots of the Sunday liturgy. Did you know, for example, that in the course of a single worship on Sunday morning that we share Biblical references that include words Moses spoke to Aaron, the angels sang at the birth of Jesus, greetings that St. Paul shared with the communities to whom he wrote, and a vision that St. John recorded in the book of Revelation? And that's without even including the first and second reading, the psalm, or the Gospel. Yep. It's all there.

Learn more. Dive into the deep end of the pool of your Lutheran worship heritage. First Sunday Faith Forum. April 3rd. Be there.

LMLC Spring Forum! - April 24th

Come join your Church Council "Around the Table" for our Spring Forum, after worship on Sunday, April 24th! A taco bar/fiesta lunch is provided by Pastor Julie's Sabbatical Grant, but please put your name on the RSVP list at Sign-Up Central! in the Narthex, or contact the office by Sunday, April 17th so we can get an accurate count to the caterer. Your Council will lead discussion and updates on the Housing project with Compass Housing Alliance, as well as other LMLC business items. We hope to see you there!



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 - 9 am - 2 pm - For children 4 years old - 5th grade

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



LMLC News and Events

Stewardship Living - by Norman Swenson

Stewardship is something we ought to do and something we are pleased to do. We all understand that it involves “giving” but we may tend to believe that when we have made the gift, that is the end of it. We ignore that there are also benefits to the giver. Proverbs 11:25 (NIV) states that “A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.”



Some of the benefits to the donors may not be obvious to them. Some are just waiting to accept them.

Each year we contribute money to our congregation. The budget of the congregation includes an amount or percentage that will be given to the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA. The Synod uses a portion for its responsibilities, which directly and indirectly benefit our congregation and each of us. They also send more than 45% of what they receive from congregations to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Have you ever checked ELCA on the internet (www.elca.org/resources)? You will find a list of more than 50 resources covering many subjects including Caring for Creation, World Hunger, Multicultural Ministries, Justice for Women, Racial Justice, Bible Studies, Lutheran Disaster Response, Social Responsibility, Malaria Campaign, Fund for Leaders, Global Missions and many others. Under each of these there are listed several things that the program provides. Some provide downloads such as monthly updates, booklets, study guides, definitions, and descriptions of the activities of programs such as Global Hunger and various ELCA activities. They relate to individual, local, statewide, national and international opportunities and obligations. They are all listed for you with information enabling you to increase what you know about many current happenings and plans plus learning of chances to encourage you to realize the benefits to you and to our congregation.

Another good source of information for you is the monthly subscription magazine, “The Lutheran” the name of which will be changed to “Living Lutheran” in April.

This is only one of the benefits that return to us from our contributions to God’s work. We should be anxious to expand our knowledge to better understand and extend our mission. Accept the opportunity.

LMLC News and Events

Thank You!

...to Kelsey Larson for leading Holden Evening Prayer.
 ...to Marlys Carlson, Phyllis Swenson, Diane Chapman, Sharon Howell, Karen Senior, Bill Meade, Joe and Diane MacKechnie, The Ter Hark Family, Sandy Jamieson, Zachary Johnson, Payton Johnson, Taliyah McElroy, Pastor Hoffman, Laurie Baughman, Lollie Ellingson, Gordon Trombley, and The Gough Family for their help in getting the church ready for Easter Sunday and for making our Easter Sunday Breakfast happen!
 ...to Donna Smith, Vicki Cook, Marge Skrinde, Laurie Baughman, and Gordon Trombley, for providing the soup suppers and being building hosts for Lenten Midweek Worship in March.
 ...to Mary Hinderliter and Donna Smith, for helping to get the Easter Seasonal Bulletins put together and in the pews.



Self-Defense Class: My Will to Survive

A one-day Self-Defense Class will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 30th. You must register online at www.mywilltosurvive.org (our class is under "Community Events"), and pay with cash/check at the event. All proceeds go to provide training to women and girls in high risk living situations. Please see the flyer below, the website, or contact Carolyn Baker at 206-782-9551 for more information.

YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF

my will to survive



In this 2 1/2 hour training, you will learn legal boundaries for self-defense, targeting, bodily impact weapons, strikes, blocks, and escapes. We'll even touch on active shooter survival concepts. Don't miss the fun!

When: Saturday, April 30, 2016

Cost: \$25 adult/\$20 (12-17yo w/adult)

Where: Luther Memorial Church @ 1:30-4pm

13047 Greenwood Ave. N. Seattle, WA 98133

Register today, space is limited: www.mywilltosurvive.org

To register or for more information:

www.mywilltosurvive.org

All proceeds go to provide the same training to women and girls in high risk living situations, locally and abroad.

SELF-DEFENSE AND PERSONAL SAFETY TRAINING

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.

Easter Lily Dedications

Easter Lilies were donated by members of the LMLC congregation and community in honor or memory of their loved ones.

Thank you for helping to decorate the Sanctuary!

Ruth and Amy Bartling

In memory of Paul

Laurine Booth

In memory of Chuck Booth

Delia Broderick

In memory of Edward and Bertha Gaetz

In memory of W.H. and Dorothy Purdy

Marlys Carlson

In memory of Bob Carlson

Chris, Krissy, Mason, and Mackenzie Culmer

In memory of Doug Howell

Lori Gunby

In memory of my brother Richard, and sister Valerie

In honor of my amazing parents, Jim and Joan

Bjorg Hansen

In memory of Iyvind

Elaine Hardin

In memory of Gene Hardin

In memory of Leonard and Aila Fick

Mary and Claralou Hinderliter and Eric Zoekler

In memory of Celia Hinderliter-Helm

Paul and Donna Hoffman

In honor of the people of God at Luther Memorial

Sharon Howell

In memory of Doug Howell

Pastor Julie Hutson

In honor of the people of God at Luther Memorial!

Raj and Colleen Lingappaiah

In honor of our children, Joshua and Daniel

In honor of our Mothers, Donna and Rebecca

In memory of our Fathers, Tom and Giri

Beverly Mueller

In memory of my husband, Leo

Nancy Sandbloom

In memory of Edward Sandbloom

Katy and Mike Sarff

In memory of Katy's Mom - Kris Nelson-Goble

In memory of Katy's Dad - Danny Penland

Rolf and Marge Skrinde

In memory of Wilhelm and Martha Martin

In memory of Rolf and Annie Skrinde

Donna Smith

In memory of Tom Smith

In honor of my daughters and their families

Jennifer and Michael Trice and Brigid Collins

In memory of Thomas Trice

In memory of Jean McAleer

Andre and Shirley Yandl

In memory of our parents

Community News and Events

Love in a Time of Fear: Christians and Muslims as Neighbors

What would happen if Muslims and Christians did what our respective founders invited us to do: be neighbors? In a time of fear, when Muslims are often scapegoated and stereotyped, Christians and Muslims are joining together for love in a time of fear. Love doesn't mean only having warm feelings, but actively working for the well-being of your neighbor as they work for yours. Please join us for events around the Puget Sound, reach out to our Muslim and Christian neighbors, and encourage work together for our mutual well-being.

Thursday, April 7, 7pm at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church

Wednesday, April 20, 7pm at Anacortes Senior Center

Sunday, April 24, 12:30pm at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Seattle

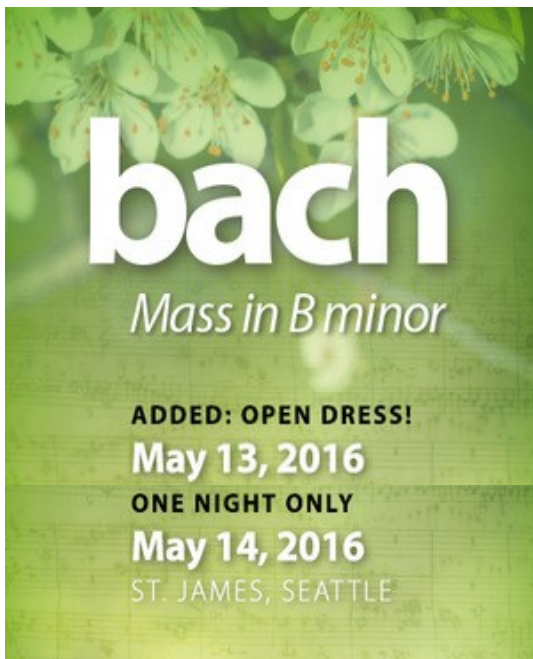
More info here: <http://muslimsandchristiansasneighbors.com/events/>

seattle
pro musica
a world of choral beauty

Seattle Pro Musica (the choir our Office Administrator, Katy Sarff, sings in) presents J.S. Bach's monumental *Mass in B minor* with the

renowned period-instrument orchestra Pacific MusicWorks and four stellar soloists: Kendra Colton, soprano; Joseph Schlesinger, countertenor; Zach Finkelstein, tenor; and Charles Robert Stephens, bass. Passes are going

quickly for our only performance, so we've opened our dress rehearsal for a reduced price. Reserve your seats today!



Passes can be purchased at:

www.seattlepromusica.org/tickets/

or by calling the SPM office at 206-781-276.

OPEN DRESS REHEARSAL: ADDED EVENT!

Friday, May 13, 2016 - 8:00 PM

Presale Passes: \$30 General / \$25 Senior / \$12 Student

PERFORMANCE:

Saturday, May 14, 2016 - 8:00 PM

Presale Passes: \$45 Prime (sold out!) / \$35 General / \$28 Senior / \$15 Student

Community News and Events

Discover the Foss Difference Building Bridges

Please join us for a breakfast with Paul Hoffman

No one builds better bridges than God, who built the biggest one yet, spanning the distance from heaven to earth. By going the distance, God has made great love known for all people and for all creation. As children of God, we're called to build bridges to one another. Every day the ministry of Foss answers that call by building a bridge between seniors in need of residential health care and long-term assisted living. Those bridges extend to our residents' families as well as to the congregations whom we serve.



Pastor Paul Hoffman, called as a writer and teacher by the NWWA Synod, is a long-time friend of Foss and himself a bridge builder. As our speaker, he will help us see the important connections, that all of us have the opportunity to make, in the life of Foss, its residents, and the world around us. Paul is a nationally-known author and speaker. Paul was most recently pastor at Phinney Ridge Lutheran in Seattle.

Please be our guest

Saturday April 9, 2016
Check-in 9am
Program begins at 9:30am
Light breakfast will be served
Shoreline Community College
 16101 Greenwood Avenue North • Shoreline

Limited Space
Reservations are Required

To reserve a place, please:
 Call Kim Hardwick 206-834-2581
 or email: khardwick@fosscaare.org



All guests will be invited to make a gift to support the Foss mission

Vicar's View

Life happens, in complex and often unanticipated ways. I speak to my students about these realities in a pastoral manner, in terms of their ministerial approaches that respond to people in need. The unexpected – in life as in ministry – is what I am also experiencing at LMLC, in your midst.

For instance, your experiences inspire sermons and assist me in finding ways to be a pastoral presence for you. I preached last week on the Prodigal Son, only after one of the members suggested that I reflect on the nature of waiting. “We all have to learn how to wait,” she said. That’s right, I thought; the father waits for his child to return. Your suggestion to me led to a sermon about the virtue of God’s love that waits for us, just as the parent waits for her child. What this suggests to me is that being a pastoral presence, like a caring friendship, requires that we listen to one another. You and I are listening to one another, and your suggestions can inspire a homily. The homily provides a window by which I can mirror to you a voice of gospel witness that you are hungry for, as evident in your suggestions. So, you’re right; we do know what it means to wait, and we need to know that God loves and waits for us too, and a homily is a vehicle for reminding us of God’s call to us in precisely this way.

Here is another moment of life happening in unexpected ways. In the past two weeks we have had guests arrive on Sunday morning who are experiencing significant need. Beyond waiting, sometimes we also need to act, and action must be specific so that those who

require our attention receive a response that mirrors God’s love too. Both of these individuals were calling on our sense of Christian call, and they were hoping that we would mirror a loving response to them as well. We can’t meet every immediate request, but we can (and do) respond to those needs that arrive on a Sunday morning, or throughout the week.

Here is the third unexpected moment. On two occasions in the past three weeks, loved ones I have known – including one of our own here at LMLC – have had to commend their husbands or wives to God’s eternal care. Death is painful. Death is also not a final word. The gratitude, and love, and hope in the divine promise of resurrected life, are all a part of the substance of our spiritual connection to God. I am inspired in very meaningful ways by the grace that is witnessed by this walk, which is of solitude but also the invitation to join one another in community, to break bread together, to stand alongside one another, and to recall the gospel truth that God is leading and renewing. All of these words about God’s wisdom in leadership, is never reducible to jargon, ever. And, if I thought otherwise, you might do very well to recommend I choose another vocation, rather than serve as your vicar.

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 poten-

Vicar's View

tial 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, 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

PJ's Page - Updates from Sabbatical

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1

All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.” J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*

When I was in third grade we had to take timed multiplication tests. Our teacher always called herself the “time keeper.” I called myself panicked. There are many different kinds of time keepers, though. Sports and transportation rely on time keepers. There is a book and a movie called the Time Keeper. Keeping time is something we must do in order to function well in society.

A part of this sabbatical experience has been to learn to keep time in a new way. I've largely given up setting an alarm clock to wake up in the morning. I nap when I'm tired and have discovered that a very brief afternoon nap goes a long way. I eat when I'm hungry, not when I can squeeze in a meal and definitely not at my desk. I walk without thought of purpose or destination, but simply for the enjoyment of it.

Of course, what I know about myself and about the way I experience time is that eventually I will want to order it with more precision. I will want to arrange it so that the tasks of the day can be accomplished. For now, though, I am happy to keep time by the ringing of the church bells every hour.

One of the books I am reading while on sabbatical is The Sabbath World: Glimpses of a Different Order of Time by Judith Shulevitz. In it, she writes that “time has an architecture, and that architecture has the power to affect us as deeply as the architecture of space does.” In other words, how we use our time shapes our days as much as where we spend them. Time is different when it is spent in rich conversation than it is when it is spent looking at Facebook. But, the truth is, both activities have merit. It's generally, I think, a matter of balance, as most things are.

Much, then, of this time away has been spent finding balance. In this second month of sabbatical I am astonished at how rested I am. I'm also learning to offer myself grace and space to allow time to be unstructured, although I am a person who highly values order and structure.



PJ's Page - Updates from Sabbatical

I write this to you from Nuremberg, Germany, the city where I lived as a small child. It is the city where I learned to walk on these cobblestone streets. Bruce and I have enjoyed watching and experiencing life here as it gathers at various tables. There is a more leisurely sense of time here, it seems. We've especially noticed this when we are in a restaurant or café. The wait staff do not bring you your check until you ask for it. They never rush you to leave or ask if you want anything else. They simply let you linger for as long as you like. Of course, they also eat outside even if it's 40 degrees!

The ancient churches, with their rich histories, are my favorite places to wander and linger in these days. The stunning beauty of St. Lorenz Kirche draws me in time after time. It was bombed by the U.S. in WWII. When I sit in that space, now rebuilt, I ponder the hatred and evil that precipitated that war. I reflect on the fear that called for the alienation and annihilation of an entire people, and the flawed call for a country to return to greatness. And I pray with all that I am that we will not repeat this chapter in history. That we will find ways to see one another as the God who created us all sees us all, as beloved children. I light prayer candles for peace.

I also light prayer candles for each of you, and remember you daily with thanksgiving. In all of my rest and in all of this gratitude, there is a part of me that is eager to return...to plan....to share....to be with you, the bearers of God's light and the bringers of the love of Christ on



the corner of Greenwood and 132nd. Of course, I know that this is exactly what you are doing while I am away. And I give thanks.

May this Eastertide be blessed. May your time widen to give you rest and build space for the tasks of your day. And may God be with you until we meet again!

With great hope,

Pastor Julie Horton

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.

April 2016

1 We thank God for people whose humor and unique observations of life give us the gifts of laughter, joy and thoughtful pause, even if for only a moment.

2 We remember in our prayers the diverse gifts, life stories and challenges of our Arab-American brothers and sisters, especially during Arab-American Heritage Month, and ask God's blessings on the members and leaders of our Arab and Middle Eastern Lutheran congregations in the ELCA.

3 In all we do, with all our being and in all our prayers, we praise God's greatness and mighty deeds in our world and throughout the universe.

4 We remember in our prayers, especially during Parkinson's Awareness Month, people who live with Parkinson's disease and pray that God will also grant their care providers, companions and families patience and strength.

5 We ask God's Spirit to be at work in our congregations, that we be welcoming faith communities of worship, equipping people for ministry in daily life.

6 Some artists in Martin Luther's time sought to reveal the mystery of salvation and wonder of creation through their paintings. We remember in our prayers artists throughout history and today who inspire faith, stir imagination and witness to Scripture through their craft and creativity.

7 On this observance of World Health Day, we pray for people's participation in, and support of, diabetes prevention, that as a global community we build stronger health systems for more effective management of this disease.

8 As the angels in Isaiah proclaimed, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory," we too give thanks and praise for God's greatness and magnificence.

9 *Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian (1945)* For pastors and leaders who are driven by faith and God's word to confront evil, oppression, injustice and violence in the world, we give thanks and pray that we will be encouraged to bold actions by their example and sacrifice.

10 Simon Peter vowed his love for Jesus repeatedly and was repeatedly told by Jesus to direct his love in service to others. We ask God to remind us that we have been set free to direct our faith and love outward in service to our neighbor – in the name of Jesus Christ.

11 We remember in our prayers the 13 Young Adults in Global Mission serving in the United Kingdom. We ask God to bless and encourage their service in parish ministry, work with homeless people, youth ministry and education.

12 God was able to transform and use Paul for good, in spite of his violent, judgmental unbelieving past. Confessing our own shortcomings, sins and doubts, we give thanks that God forgives us and uses us as we are – new in spirit, new in purpose to proclaim the love of God.

13 We pray that God's Spirit will stir in us generous support for the emergency response and relief work underway to save lives and livelihoods in Ethiopia during their second year of a devastating draught.

14 We are a church together. We remember in our prayers the synod assemblies convening during April, that the Spirit will guide their members and leaders in God's work and service in the world.

15 As congregations, leaders and friends, we ask God to help us encourage people to consider serving the church as pastors or rostered leaders and to help them discern their gifts and calling to do God's work in the world.

16 We give thanks to God for delivering us from our fears and insecurities and refocusing our attention on the new life we have received in Jesus Christ.

ELCA Prayer Ventures

17 Trusting and believing doesn't come easily to us. We ask God's Spirit to help us accept and believe in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus – the one, true son of God – for our salvation and healing.

18 We continue to pray for the welcoming, resettlement and wellbeing of refugees in Europe and the Middle East. We pray for compassion and wisdom to guide government leaders and relief workers as they continue to seek solutions for this complex human crisis.

19 We pray for farmers and agricultural workers that the spring weather will be favorable for planting and growing crops that nourish God's people and creatures.

20 Our triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – is a mystery and difficult truth for us to grasp. We ask God to open our hearts and minds to receive this wonderful mystery in faith and to forgive our doubts and need to fully understand and define that which we fail to grasp.

21 We ask God to bless the final preparations of outdoor ministries across the country for their summer of stirring and strengthening the faith of people of all ages, life experiences and abilities.

22 *Earth Day* The gift of creation sustains all life and enriches our experience of life. In our prayers we give thanks and respect to God, our creator, and ask for wisdom and foresight to cherish and tend what God has entrusted to our care, use and enjoyment.

23 The Rev. Lindsay Mack and Omar Turcios Mixco, ELCA missionaries in Tlalpan, Mexico, serve as coordinators for the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Mexico. We thank God for their gifts and faithful work with young adults.

24 We remember in our prayers the divisions, suspicions and prejudices that divide us and keep us from loving and serving our neighbor, and we pray the Spirit will move us to have humble hearts, sharing and living the gospel without judgment or hesitation.

25 *Mark, the evangelist* Through our baptism, God calls and equips us to be daily witnesses to the gospel and God's promises. We pray for courage and empathy in our witness, eager for everyone to know and experience God's healing love.

26 We ask God to bless, strengthen and further the work of the ELCA pastors serving as missionaries in Jerusalem, Israel – Colin and Jennifer Grangaard, and Carrie and Robert Smith.

27 In our prayers we express the depth of our love for God with our heart, our soul, our strength, our mind and by loving our neighbor.

28 We remember in our prayers the many people making preparations for this summer's Churchwide Assembly and Grace Gathering in New Orleans. May these gatherings guide our church and inspire our lives together as Lutheran Christians in the world.

29 From the creation story in Genesis, we learn of the importance of trees and life. We give thanks to God on this Arbor Day for the essential life-giving functions trees play in nature – for humans, wildlife and ecosystems – and pray that we take seriously our responsibility to plant and tend these gifts from God.

30 We remember in our prayers college and university students preparing for finals, graduation or making plans for summer that God will bless their endeavors and guide their continuing growth, education and service.

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 33, Number 4
April 2016

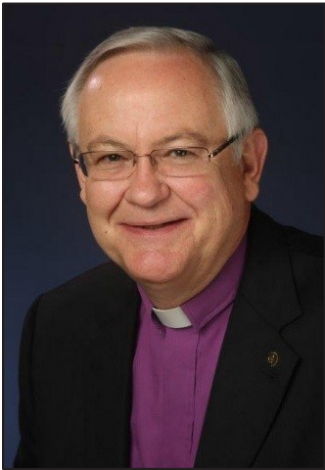
Always
being made
New.

25 YEARS TOGETHER IN CHRIST

The Spirit

Surprised by Grace

by the Rev. Kirby Unti, Bishop



Your Synod Staff has been engaged in a robust conversation about what is the role of the Synod in the midst of all that is changing. It is critical for us to be more clear about who we are because like many of you we are relying on fewer and fewer resources to do the work. This is true both in terms of dollars and people power. Our Staff has graciously agreed to take a 2.5% salary cut to make ends meet. Being clearer

about who we are will help us to know to what we can say YES, and to what we will need to say NO.

One of my dear friends in the Renton business community was Pat Newbury. Pat owned four McDonald's restaurants. He stressed the importance of identity saying, "You have to know what business you are in." He then went on to clarify that McDonald's is NOT in the hamburger business. There are lots of people in the hamburger business. Instead, what has made McDonalds successful is that they are in the Three C's Business: Convenience, Consistency, & Cleanliness. You should be able to go into any restaurant in the world and order a Big Mac quickly, that it taste like a Big Mac, and to be able to enjoy it in a clean surrounding. This is pretty true of McDonald's. Howard Schultz has a similar story to tell. Starbucks is more than coffee. It is community. It is a "third place."

Do you know what your identity is as a congregation or ministry site? Do you know what business you are in?

I left for Chicago this year to attend the March Conference of Bishops with this question of identity hanging over me. I found myself thinking about it on the airplane, during break times, and when my mind would wander from the presentation at hand. (This happened frequently!)

It dawned on me: I know what business Lutherans are called to be in. We are called to be constantly discerning where we can surprise the world with God's grace. I believe this is the best gift we have to offer the world.

We Lutherans have no monopoly on it. I think of the wonderful people of Mother Emanuel (Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC) who surprised the world with God's grace when they refused to respond with hate to a young Lutheran man who murdered blood of their own blood.

I think of the growing attention that Pope Francis is gaining as he continues to surprise the world with God's grace as he responds with compassion rather than condemnation—when he reaches out to touch and kiss the poor and forgotten.

This is who Jesus is for me. The one who, over and over again, responds in ways no one would predict—turning the cheek, forgiving his enemies, and dying on a cross.

The surprise of the gospel is the very reason I cannot turn my back on it. It just continues to intrigue me and disrupt the normal tendencies of my life.

So what does this mean for the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA? What does it mean for us to be in the business of surprising the world with God's grace? I can promise you this will be preoccupying my heart and mind as I go about the business of serving this office.

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 Synod Assembly is May 20-21

Theme

Local+Global=GLOCAL : What Is God Up To? is our theme for this year's assembly. GLOCAL takes the best of what we have learned from our Global Missions ministries and applies those same principles of companionship and accompaniment to our local context.

Throughout the books of Luke and Acts, the scriptures show us how Jesus and the disciples engaged those outside the church. At this year's assembly we will explore how to move out of our comfort zones and engage our neighbors in grace-filled ways that respect other cultures and allow us to learn from them. We will consider how to focus on the gifts that all bring to the table and not demand unity by asking those who are different to 'be just like me'.

Our keynote speaker (and Churchwide Representative) will be Sunitha Mortha, Mission Formation Director from the ELCA Global Mission Unit. Through her presentations and a variety of workshops led by members of her GLOCAL Team and local leaders, we will ponder how we engage those around us. The workshops will provide concrete examples of how our congregations can meet our neighbors and join in God's work already taking place in the neighborhood.

We look forward to hearing from these partners and centering ourselves in vibrant global worship led by the GLOCAL team and local leaders.

BONUS Workshop!

Music: A Language that Speaks to Others

is a bonus global music and worship event for those folks **not already** attending the assembly. Please encourage your worship planning team and musicians to attend this parallel gathering opportunity to be held at Trinity Lutheran College's Chapel Saturday May 21, 9am-12noon. This is an excellent opportunity to incorporate the "GLOCAL" theme of the assembly into your local context. This gathering, led by our visiting GLOCAL Team will focus on using creative liturgy and global music to communicate mission in your congregation. Cost is \$15 per person. See the assembly webpage for online registration link.

Displays & Bookstore

Many of our ministry partners and synod committees will be on hand for conversation. They will be stationed at display tables in the hallways outside of the ballroom. Be sure to stop by and find out what God is up to in these important areas of our life together.

We are delighted to welcome our friends from the Episcopal Bookstore back to our assembly. They bring a delightful array of books & gift items. They will be at one end of the hallway near the concessions cart!

Assembly Business

Gathering at the Edward D. Hansen Conference Center at the Xfinity Arena in Everett, we will also tend to the business of the synod: receive reports, elect new synod council members, vote on constitutional changes and proposed resolutions, and celebrate ministry anniversaries. Please check the assembly webpage for updates as the event approaches: www.lutheransnw.org/2016-Synod-Assembly

Resolutions

One avenue for congregations, clusters, synod committees and voting members to address issues and propose a plan for action is "the resolution." Resolutions help organize the work of the assembly by clarifying important issues or concerns. Resolutions are first reviewed by the Reference & Counsel Committee which will make recommendations to the assembly to facilitate its work, but the resolutions belong to the assembly and may be amended, rejected, or adopted after consideration by the voting members.

For all of the details on HOW to write a resolution, see the assembly webpage. The resolution submission deadline is April 30, 2016.

Nominations

We will elect **twelve synod council members**: one Youth, multiple Clergy, multiple Lay Male & multiple Lay Female. If YOU are interested in serving, please complete the nomination form found on the assembly webpage or here: lutheransnw.org/files/assemblies/2016/nominating_form_2016.pdf

Synod Council meetings are generally held on the third Saturday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. The council is the legislative authority of the assembly in between synod assembly meetings. Amongst their duties, they recommend program goals and budgets, and carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly. For all of the details on how to make a nomination, see the synod assembly webpage. The nomination submission deadline is April 30, 2016.

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 May issue due to the Synod Office by April 8

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.

March 2016

Preliminary Financial Picture as of 3/27/16

Data is not finalized and is subject to reconciliation.

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

March Contributions Received:

March 6:	\$10,329.36	March 20:	\$3,926.69
March 13:	\$2,275.69	March 27:	\$3,511.97

March Budget Fund Contribution Designations

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Unpledged Offerings and Tithes	\$3,159.45
Pledged Offerings and Tithes	\$9,965.28
Gifts other than Offerings	\$4,088.67
Room Use (<i>Room Use, Damage Deposits, and Facilities Offset Fees</i>)	\$150.00
General Fund Total Contributions:	\$17,363.40

Needed as of 3/27/16 (4 weeks): \$17,578.00 Difference: **-\$214.60**

March Off-Budget Fund Contribution Designations

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
World Hunger	\$40.00
Easter Lilies	\$130.00
Sunday School - Special Projects	\$10.00
Camp Lutherwood (Easter Breakfast)	\$170.00
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>)	\$184.00
Memorials	\$2,130.00
Endowment	\$100.00
Helping Hands and Members-In-Need	\$27.00
Designated Fund Total Contributions:	\$2,791.00

April Worship

Lectionary Readings


April 3 Easter 2 Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 118:14-29 Rev 1: 4-8 John 20:19-31	April 10 Easter 3 Acts 9:1-6 Psalm 30 Rev 5:11-14 John 21:1-19	April 17 Easter 4 Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23 Rev 7:9-17 John 10:22-30	April 24 Easter 5 Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 Rev 21:1-6 John 13:31-35
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Worship Leaders

	4/3	4/10	4/17	4/24
Preacher	Pastor Hoffman	Vicar Michael	Pastor Hoffman	Hymn Festival
Assisting Minister	Steve Olson	Gordon Trombley	Kelsey Larson	Katy Sarff
Lector	Elaine Hardin	Norman Swenson	Julie Moe	Steph Bloom
Acolyte	Kyle Gough	Payton Johnson	Gavin Gough	Jackson Ter Hark
Communion & Altar	Laurie Baughman and Diane Chapman			
Greeters and Ushers	Lollie Ellingson Lynne Greenup	Heidi, Kyle, and Gavin Gough	Gordon Trombley Steve Olson	Laurie Meade Bill Meade
Song Leaders	Vicki Cook	Julie Moe	Kyle Gough	Heidi Gough
Children's Time	Vicar Michael	Pastor Hoffman	Heidi Gough	Vicar Michael
Welcome Center	Vicki Cook	Mary Smith	Diane Chapman	Randi Jacobs
Opener	Steve Olson	Steph Bloom	Kris Johansson	Dave Ter Hark
Closer	Donna Smith	Gordon Trombley	Donna Smith	Steph Bloom
Musician	Lennon Aldort			

Happy April Birthdays!

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 7 Heidi Gough | 13 Bob Johnson | 24 Lorraine Molzahn |
| 8 Kelsey Larson | 16 Mason Culmer | 29 Pat Yeager |
| 9 Stacie Jamieson
Taliyah McElroy | 18 Bruce Long | 30 Paul Allen |

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>3 9 First Sunday Faith Forum and Sunday School 10 Worship 11:30 Fellowship 3 Emmanuel Charisma Church</p>	<p>4 10-1 Pastor Hoffman Office Hours 6 Girl Scouts 6:45 Music Monday</p>	<p>5 7 Early Ford V8 Club 7 Cub Scouts Leaders Meeting</p>	<p>6 9:30 Seekers 7 Nar-Anon</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 9-12 Pastor Hoffman Office Hours</p>	<p>9 7:30 FARA</p>
<p>10 9 Sunday Church School and Choir Rehearsal 10 Worship 11:30 Fellowship 3 Emmanuel Charisma Church</p>	<p>11 10-2 Pastor Hoffman Office Hours 1:30 Book Brigade 7 Broadview Block Watch</p>	<p>12 6:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>13 9:30 Seekers 6:30 Cub Scouts 7 Nar-Anon</p>	<p>14 6:30 Cub Scouts 7 Broadview Garden Club</p>	<p>15 12-3 Pastor Hoffman Office Hours</p>	<p>16 7:30 FARA</p>
<p>17 9 Sunday Church School and Choir Rehearsal 10 Worship 11:30 Fellowship <i>Last day to RSVP for meal at Spring Forum</i> 3 Emmanuel Charisma Church</p>	<p>18 6 Girl Scouts</p>	<p>19 1-4 Pastor Hoffman Office Hours 6 LMLC Council 7 BCC Board 7 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>20 9:30 Seekers 7 Nar-Anon</p>	<p>21 6 Bitterlake P-Patch</p>	<p>22 9-12 Pastor Hoffman Office Hours 7 ECC Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>23 7:30 FARA 1-6 ECC Wedding</p>
<p>24 9 Sunday Church School and Choir Rehearsal 10 Worship 11:30 LMLC Spring Forum 3 Emmanuel Charisma Church</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 6 Cub Scouts Pack 321</p>	<p>27 9:30 Seekers 7 Nar-Anon</p>	<p>28 3-5 Pastor Hoffman Office Hours</p>	<p>29 9-12 Pastor Hoffman Office Hours</p>	<p>30 7:30 FARA 1:30 My Will To Survive: Self-Defense Class</p>
<p>Missing a Sunday this month? We now have Online Giving on our website: www.luthermemorialsseattle.com/onlinegiving</p>						