



LUTHER MEMORIAL

lutheran church

The Quarterly Messenger February 2021



LMLC Zoom Worship 2021

Julie E. Moe, Council President
Rev. Paul Hoffman, Transition Pastor
Rev. Laura Harris-Ferree, Pastor of Outreach and Community

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
13047 Greenwood Ave. N
Seattle, WA 98133
206-364-2510



Back to the Future

It's been a real joy to connect with the Luther Memorial congregation via phone over these first weeks that I've been on board as your Transition Pastor. The conversations have been just wonderful, I've learned a lot about you, and I hope you've gotten to know me a bit as well. Who would have thought, in February 2020, that the only way to meet one another would be via phone, e-mail, or Zoom? Yet, here we are. One whole Covid-laden year later.

In almost every conversation, I heard the exact same longing and desire, sometimes in different words, but always with the same intensity: *I can't wait until we can get back to worship in the building again.*

Believe me, I hear you. Even though I have a much shorter emotional history inside the walls of 13047 Greenwood Ave N, I still love that place, and in the few times that I've visited the building since 1 December I always walk into the empty sanctuary and imagine Pr. Laura and myself leading all of you "just like it used to be."

But here's the thing. It won't be "just like it used to be." Because no matter when we get back, we will not be going back to February 2020. We will be going *back to the future.*

As we begin to think about reoccupying our beloved worship home, it is good for all of us to keep in mind that things will be different. And, as our governor Jay Inslee has said so many times, "going back will be more like turning a dial than flipping a switch." We will no doubt return gradually, with small numbers to begin with, and all with masks, vaccinated or not.

We will likely not be singing, at least not at first. We will have to think about communion and its distribution in new, safer ways. There will probably be no coffee hour – perhaps parking lot socializing instead with masks and social distance.

And, more deeply than these changes around our ritual lives there will be this truth with which we will deal: we are all returning as different people in a world that's different than the one we left behind at the final service in late winter of 2020. Some of us are slimmer, more toned. Others are grayer. We've all dealt with the isolation of 2020 and early 2021 in different ways. A contested election, the failed take-over of our nation's capitol building and the government it houses, months without hugs have all taken their toll. We are not the same.

So, my friends, what we will be going back to sometime in the months to come is a new, shared future. Yep. *Back to the future.* Who knows exactly what it will hold? Who knows what joys and challenges will lie ahead of us? Who knows what traumas from 2020 might flare or comforts from 2021 might console? What we do know for sure, as we contemplate coming *back to the future*, is that the future to which we return belongs to God. It is held in God's beloved and compassionate hands. No wonder we long for it so much. For all its challenges, God will meet us with joy. For all its differences, Christ's love will be its still, strong self. For all its changes, the breath of the Spirit will still blow through our assembly. And for all of that and so much more, we should all be looking forward in hope.

As ever in Christ,
Pastor Hoffman

“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.”

Philippians 1:3-5

People of God at Luther Memorial,

I am so thankful for each of you. As the writer of Philippians says, I thank God every time I remember you. We are almost one year into this pandemic. Almost one year into worshipping virtually and being scattered about Seattle. And yet, your resiliency has amazed me. The way you care for each other and continue the mission of Actively sharing Christ’s love in community is simply inspiring.



Your council has faithfully called members of this congregation and you have faithfully answered their calls! Pastor Hoffman has created a new ministry, Living Word, to connect those without access to our worship videos the option to hear the Living Word of God. You continually sustain the free little pantry and lunch ministry. You stepped up and helped staff our lunch window five days a week! You have kept up with the care of our lawn. The list could go on about your resiliency and care during this time.

There is no greater joy for a pastor than to see the people they serve care for each other. I truly thank God for each of you during this time. While we have grieved, cried, worried, shared anxieties during this time we have remained together as community. You all share the Gospel in a variety of ways, and I am so thankful for your witness.

I will continue to thank God for each of you and for the ways I see God at work in your lives. We are a small but mighty congregation truly living out the Gospel on the corner of Greenwood and 132nd St.

Below you will find ways to continue to support and shape our ministry at LMLC. I hope that you will continue to find the strength and the call to serve as God’s servant.

Forever grateful,
Pastor Laura Harris-Ferree

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you to all of you who were able to join us for our 2021 Annual Meeting on Zoom held on January 24th. We had a great turn-out and a productive meeting! Here are the highlights:

❖ **Nominating:** Mary Hinderliter reported that Eric Zoeckler and Marilyn Enloe agreed to serve on the Congregational Council for a two-year term. Julie Moe will stay on Council for an additional two-year term. We thanked Lollie Ellingson for her faithful service on Council and hope to see her return for another term in the future.

Raj & Colleen Lingappaiah will serve as voting delegates to the NWWA Synod Assembly this spring. Norman Swenson and Pastor Hoffman will serve as our representatives at the annual Hearthstone meeting. Many thanks to Mary as well as Elaine Hardin and Laurie Baughman for their nominating efforts!

- ❖ **2021 Budget:** The new budget was presented by Diane MacKechnie and approved by the voting members present. (The summary-style format was greatly appreciated!) Our challenge moving forward is to reduce the amount we are drawing from our parking lot sale proceeds.
- ❖ **Transition Team:** Keiko Long is chairing this team, working with Pastor Hoffman, Mary Hinderliter, Steve Olson, Elaine Hardin, and Raj Lingappaiah to help us identify who we are as a congregation and what our hopes and needs are for our next pastor.
- ❖ **Facilities News:** Cutting Edge Construction has nearly completed repairs on our building's soffits and the structure over the breezeway.

Please take time to thank Pastor Laura Harris-Ferree and Pastor Paul Hoffman for their compassionate and faithful work among us. They are leading with wisdom and a spirit of collaboration and hopefulness as we face the challenges of these days.

I am honored to continue serving on the Congregational Council as your president and I thank you for your trust and support. Your feedback and questions are welcome as we continue to navigate this time of great change and great possibilities.

Romans 15:13 - "May the God of hope fill you with such peace and joy in your faith, that you may be filled with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Take care,
Julie E. Moe, Congregation President

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Can you believe it?! We have already found our way to Lent. As always, we will worship together on Sunday mornings and you can find that schedule below.

Ash Wednesday, February 17th, we will worship with Broadview UCC on Zoom at 7pm. Instead of using ashes, we will use water so please be ready with a bowl of water.

For our midweek Lenten services, we will worship with Broadview UCC on Zoom. We will use pieces from Holden Evening prayer and dive into our baptismal promises. You can even eat some soup before worship to make it feel more Lent-ish!

We hope that you will join us for worship during this Lenten journey.

Wednesday 7 pm Ash Wednesday Zoom
2.17.21

Wednesdays 7 pm Lenten Midweek Zoom
2.24--3.24

Sundays Anytime! Sunday Worship Youtube
2.7--2.21

Sunday 10:30am Lent 2 Zoom
2.28.21

Roster Calls Report from Pastor Hoffman

As one of his initial goals in serving as our Transition Pastor, Pastor Hoffman hoped to have a conversation with everyone whose name is in the current directory during his first 4-6 weeks among us. While those six weeks have come and gone, there are just a few calls left to make as we hit the beginning of his third month with us. In reaching about 95% of our people so far, Pastor Hoffman has gathered a great deal of information from each of you about your hopes, dreams, and concerns about our congregation both now and in the future that stretches before us. It's also been the best way he could think of to connect with each LMLC household in these days when we're socially isolated from one another. If you've not yet heard from Paul, you may want to turn the tables and give *him* a call! In some cases a current, accurate phone number has been hard to come by. In other cases, we just keep missing one another. Paul's cell is 206.972.9995. And if he hasn't touched base with you yet, please feel free to call him.

LIVING WORD Ministry

There are fifteen or so faithful members of Luther Memorial who have not had an opportunity to access live worship in any way since our services went online back in March. Finding themselves without a computer, or current Zoom or YouTube technology, some of our longest standing faithful members have been left with little contact other than a weekly mailing of the print edition of worship, and phone calls from both council members and friends.

Now, a new ministry has begun called LIVING WORD. Through this ministry, each of the folks who have no other access receive a weekly phone call from a volunteer who reads a devotion that our pastors prepare. In this way, they have been able to reconnect to the LIVING WORD, Jesus Christ. In the book of Romans, St. Paul reminds us: *faith comes from what is heard*. If you are reading this and are in need of hearing a weekly, Living Word, please let Pastor Hoffman know. And if you'd like to be a volunteer, matched with one of our members as a reader of these weekly devotions, do the same.

Lenten Bible Study

via ZOOM on Thursday evenings at 7

Lent calls us to intensify our spiritual journeys as we look forward to the renewal that Easter always brings. Pastor Hoffman will be leading a Bible study as part of that spiritual renewal on the five Thursday evenings of Lent from 25 February to 25 March. The texts for each week's study will be the preaching text from the Lenten midweek service the night before. In this way, the studies will give us an opportunity to take a deeper dive into the Bible lesson or story and share the insights that both Scripture and sermon bring. On Zoom, of course. Links will be sent out in the midweek update. We hope to be joined by some of our friends from Broadview UCC as well.

Feeding Ministry

Our feeding ministry is in full swing! Thank you for your faithful support of this ministry. Monday through Friday we have five faithful volunteers who work our lunch window from 10a-12p. Thank you, Donna Smith, Laurie & Emily Meade, Vicki Cook, Mary Hinderliter, and Diane Chapman. If you would like to join Keiko Long and Julie Moe on the back up list please let Pastor Laura know.

Our needs: as always the free little pantry is in need of shelf stable foods. Hot commodity items include easy pull cans like Spaghettios, ravioli, fruit, and vegetables. Also, shelf stable milk cartons are well appreciated. The supply in the food pantry can turn over as quickly as two days. What a great beacon of hope to our neighbors.

Finally, our lunches are in need of granola bars, Vienna sausages, tuna packs, and cookies.



TRANSITION TEAM

First of all, what IS a Transition Team? In a word, this is the group of LMLC members who will steer the process by which we identify the needs we have for pastoral leadership in the present and future days of our ministry. The Transition Team's work precedes that of the Call Committee and helps us and the entire congregation recall our history, assess our present moment in ministry, and look to the future that God is rolling out before us.

At its December meeting, the Council identified a large group of volunteers who might serve us well in this work, and from that recruitment process, the following team has emerged. Please keep them in your daily prayers and wait to hear more from them soon about ways in which each member's input will be sought in developing a profile of our ministry and its dreams and needs.

Keiko Long, Transition Team Chair
Elaine Hardin, Raj Lingappaiah, Steve Olson, Mary Hinderliter
Pastor Paul Hoffman, Staff Liaison

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELCA New Hymnal

It's been a well-kept secret in these Covid days, but – YES! – the ELCA has introduced a new hymnal. It's called ALL CREATION SINGS. Little by little, our congregation will be exploring its treasury of new hymns and liturgies. In the month of February, we'll sing *Dazzling Presence on the Mountain* during the Transfiguration Sunday liturgy. Its text was written by our own Pastor Hoffman and is his first hymn text to appear in an ELCA worship resource. On Ash Wednesday, our liturgy will include Thomas Troeger's new text, *All Things of Dust to Dust Return*.

Some will no doubt remember the paperback "blue hymnal," *With One Voice*. This was a supplemental resource to our former green book. In the same way, *All Creation Sings*, is a supplemental resource to the red book, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* which, believe it or not, is now 15 years old. It was released in 2006. This newest supplement of hymns, liturgies, and other worship resources finds its home inside a lovely purple cover.

Financial Update

Please stay tuned for a financial update. With our new budget we were not prepared to give an accurate financial update at this time. In our next edition of the Quarterly Messenger, we will provide an overview of our financial picture. Please feel free to ask any questions in the meantime.

2021 Budget Recap

Total Revenue= \$210,621

Total Expenses= \$211, 120

Total Deficit= \$499

Our total pledged amount is \$108,421.32 with 30 giving units and we are using \$80,000 from the ELCA Fund A (parking lot sale) to supplement the budget.

Endowment Update

Currently, the endowment fund has \$56,253.83. The endowment fund committee is chaired by Diane Chapman and the other members include Diane MacKechnie, Pastors, and the Council President.

In 2020, we used the interest from the endowment fund to support the following ministries with a total of \$562.40 going to each organization:

- Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries
- ELCA World Hunger
- Northwest Washington Synod COVID Relief Fund
- Religica
- Compass Housing Alliance

What an amazing use of these funds to support ministries doing vital work throughout the world.