



LUTHER MEMORIAL
lutheran church

The Quarterly Messenger Autumn 2021



Julie E. Moe, Council President
Rev. Paul Hoffman, Transition Pastor

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
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FROM PASTOR HOFFMAN



Greetings, Belove Community of Luther Memorial!

Autumn is upon us, and with it comes the richness of this season in all its beauty and wonder. Perhaps we can look to nature itself to provide what the newsfeed of the nation and world cannot – a vision of hope and grace.

I urge you to join us for worship in one of our weekly opportunities. I believe that the worship we provide on Sunday mornings in the building is safe. I also understand that for whatever reasons it can feel like an unnecessary risk for you or your family and, if that's the case, then I encourage you to join in at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings for a brief Zoom service. The link for that is in this newsletter, and always available on the LMLC website, the midweek update, and on our FaceBook page.

There is great news to share on the musical front at LMLC. We have received the gracious commitments of a small group of piano players who will lead our weekly worship. They come to us from a variety of other churches, are all skilled and eager to serve, and have been scheduled to lead us through the balance of 2021. We owe a debt of gratitude to Julie Moe and other musicians from our own congregation who have led us musically in various ways as we have begun to gather again for in person worship. I hope you will join me each week in greeting and thanking our guest accompanists as they appear to serve us.

Our Call Committee is up and running. Under the capable leadership of Jen Smith, they have been meeting weekly since mid-August. There is a report from them in this edition of THE MESSANGER, and that will become a regular feature of this and other parish communications until a new pastor is called. Please keep Jen in your prayers, along with: Matt Smith, Donna Smith, Leia Smith, Bob Johnson, Elaine Hardin, and Vicki Cook.

We don't say it often enough, but we also owe a debt of thanks and a commitment to prayer for our fine Church Council – Julie Moe, Andrew Wesly, Marilyn Enloe, Diane MacKechnie, Laurie Meade, Ardene Adams, and Eric Zoeckler. Along with them, please include in your daily prayers our Administrative Assistant, Jian Zhang and our Custodian, Ben Scott.

Of course in this particular autumn, I'm aware of the passing of time and the changing of the seasons. With my mother having just died in August, I see in every falling leaf the promise of new life that the coming spring will bring. And I give thanks to God for the eternal spring that we receive at the font, that spring that leads to an everlasting summer of grace and peace in the arms of Christ.

Yours Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Hoffman

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FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Dear Friends in Christ,

I am weary.

My heart feels heavy.

I'm tired of the pandemic. I'm tired of bemoaning those who refuse to get vaccinated.

I'm tired of worrying about my health and everyone else's health.

I shouldn't begin a Messenger letter this way, of course. I should be upbeat and uplift the spirits of those who read this.

But...

I'm tired.

Tired of injustice. Tired of homelessness. Tired of vandalism.

Tired of intolerance.

Tired of people seeking power to control what others do with their bodies.

Tired of people not offering kindness and compassion to their neighbors.

Tired of people being fearful of others.

How many of you read the entire Messenger? How many of you skim it, then discard? How many of you read it, then forget about the content in the busyness of your day? I get it, I do. But I'm frustrated lately. There are less than 20 of us doing *all* the things to sustain our ministry, and we're tired.

I am trying to be excited about a new pastor and a fresh start for our beloved community of faith, but I'm worried. What if we don't have enough resources to call a new pastor? What if a new pastor begins their ministry among us and cannot gather enough people to do the work of the church?

I know that perhaps you *are* helping in ways that I'm not even aware of. I know that I may be preaching to the choir, as those of you who are involved in our ministries are probably the ones who read the Messenger word for word.

We are hoping to reinvigorate our standing committees this fall, and our biggest need is for people to serve on the **Property Committee** and the **Personnel Committee**. Are you available to step up and share your time & talent with your church community?

Do you have time to reach out for a conversation (text, email, or phone) with your Council President and/or your Pastor? Perhaps some of my tiredness could be eased by our chat! I would love to hear your thoughts, your views, your opinions on how we can best share Christ's love in our community. Despite my frustrations, I am still filled with faith that we will persevere and nurture our community with God's grace and guidance.

Sincerely,

Julie E. Moe

Council President

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

In-Person worship Sunday @ 10:30am

Zoom Outdoor Worship Monday @ 7:00pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81682545349>

Meeting ID: 816 8254 5349

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Tuesday: 10:00am – 3:00pm (Pastor Paul Hoffman)

Monday – Wednesday: 10:00am – 3:00pm (Jian Zhang)

Thursday – Friday: 9:00am – 1:00pm (Jian Zhang)

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The call committee has been meeting weekly since August 15th, 2021. The committee selected Jen Smith as chairperson and Matthew Smith as Recorder. Our first task, to complete the Congregation's ministry profile is anticipated to be completed by September 12th 2021. From there, we will begin the next step to meet with Pastor Andy Yee, Assistant to the Bishop, and start reviewing candidate's profile. Further timelines will be determined after meeting with Pastor Yee.

Please keep your Call Committee in your prayers as they move forward in this very important step in seeking new pastoral leadership for our congregation.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance for July, August, and September

Sunday, 1 August – 19

Sunday, 8 August – 18

Sunday, 15 August – 19

Sunday, 22 August – 24

Sunday, 29 August – 16

Sunday, 5 September – 23

Sunday, 12 September – 26

Monday, 2 August/Zoom - 4

Monday, 9 August/Zoom - 6

Monday, 20 August/Zoom - Cancelled

Monday, 23 August/Zoom - 3

Monday, 30 August/Zoom - 2

Monday, 6 September/Zoom – 2

Monday, 13 September/Zoom - 3

FINANCES

LMLC Budget Snapshot for August

Please be informed of the Luther Memorial financial status with this snapshot of our monthly report. Full reports are available upon request.

Monthly Financial Snapshot for August 2021

Luther Memorial Annual Budget $\$211,120 \div 12 = \$17,593$ per month needed

Monthly Needed		August Receipts		Surplus/Deficit
\$17,593		\$11,207.86		(\$6,385.14)
August Actual Expenses		(Under)/Over		Surplus/Deficit
\$14,481.66		(\$3,111.26)		(\$3,273.88)

Expenditures for the month of August were over/under budget in these areas:

This month, expenses were down, but still exceeded receipts. Total revenue was up from last month. There were no extra expenses above and beyond the usual.

MINISTRY UPDATES

Afghan Refugee Support

As refugees from the fall of Afghanistan into the hands of the Taliban in August arrive in Seattle, there is a pressing need for resettlement. LMLC's Council took a bold step in joining that process of welcome and resettlement recently by offering space for furnishings, clothing, and household goods to be stored, displayed and ultimately picked up and moved into the homes of our newest Seattle neighbors. The good that are currently available are being stored in the N half of Celebration Hall and the office across from the Sunday School classroom. Our efforts in this regard are being coordinated through Salaam Medical Missions (SCM). We anticipate that this temporary assistance will be needed through the end of calendar year 2021.

COUNCIL DEVOTIONS FROM 14 SEPTEMBER 2021

Pastor Hoffman offered the following devotions at Church Council Meeting on Tuesday evening, 14 September. It was requested that they be shared with the congregation...

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

We have clearly been trespassed against. There is no glory in claiming first prize on this one, but I think it's pretty clear that Jian and I have been on the front lines of the trespassing that has plagued us in the last week or so. We were verbally assaulted, threatened, and – had it not been for the wisdom of the original builders in installing double pane glass – who knows what may have happened to us on the Wednesday after Labor Day.

Trespasses against Luther Memorial have included, but have not been limited to, cleaning up human feces, regular Sunday morning patrols in PPE to make the grounds presentable for those gathering for worship, the aforementioned assaults, just to get the list rolling. And it is all compounded, at least in my mind, by a pathway forward being so elusive. Believe me, there was never a class in seminary on “how to pray while clearing away excrement.” Those upon whom we usually lean for support and protection are as vexed as we are. Social workers, police, mental health responders and family members of those who suffer so acutely are as confused as we are about what to do next. Our government has failed us. Our economy's fixes are failing us, we can't buy our way out of this one. Our system is broken. And it is frustrating at the very least, dangerous at the very worst.

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

But. And this is a big but. A big, big, but. We are not the government. We are not the economy. We are not even a system. We are the church. We are the body of Christ. We are the Gospel, alive in the world, Christ's hands and heart, ears and eyes, his mercy, and his compassion.

We have some important items on our agenda this evening to consider. Items about our future – its structure, its function, its finances. And we also have items to consider about our trespasses. And that is exactly the point. About *our* trespasses. Because that is where Jesus begins in this beloved prayer. With *our* trespasses. Jesus wants to make it perfectly clear that we ourselves are trespassers, those who wantonly take and use what is not ours but God's, what is not ours but rightfully others, what we think we own but really do not.

And in our conversations tonight about all of these things, if we can start there.... If we can start with seeing ourselves among those who also trespass, not simply those who are trespassed against, then we will be in the appropriate lane. We will be in the lane called “church.” And we will likely come to conclusions different from those of government, or financial advisors or maintainers of a broken system. We will be the people of Jesus, which is who we are called to be in our baptisms. And as the old Sunday School song says so plainly and so well – they will know we our Christians by our love, by our love. They will know we are Christians by our love.

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive



- 1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
- 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
- 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.

Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

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