



LUTHER MEMORIAL

lutheran church

Quarterly Messenger

Easter Season 2022



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

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Pastor's Article

Let us celebrate the festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I Corinthians 5:8

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! II Corinthians 5:17

It seems that we're all in the mood for a new beginning. But have you noticed that the new beginning continues to be a moving target? Do we need a mask or don't we? Is it safe(r) to travel now? Are we really "post-Covid?"

The NYTimes ran a story the morning of my writing this that a "variant of the variant" is posing great difficulties in Europe and Asia. I know that you share with me the difficulty in knowing how to think about all this. I know this, because you tell me.

And then there is the war in Ukraine – a war that is difficult to understand and seems more complex in its origins, conduct, and possible resolution than most can imagine.

Amid all this (and so much more!) the Church makes the unrelenting journey toward Easter. We make it with Jesus by our side. It is a journey that takes us to the cross, but that does not end there.

Before we jump too quickly to the empty tomb of Easter's promise, let's stay focused on the cross. It is in the cross that all the ambiguities of our present lives are wrapped together in the amazing love of Jesus and overpowered. We have trouble making sense of it, this way of overcoming difficulties with surrender. Yet this is what Jesus shows us, and as all of life's uncertainties, suffering, pain, and death are taken by him to the cross, God makes of them a New Creation.

So many of the stories in this Lent and Easter season point us to the wonder of God's New Creation in Christ. Again and again we see how the world we have spoiled, the relationships we have squandered, the sins we have committed are swallowed up by the love of Christ that brings from the empty tomb new hope, a new beginning. *If any are in Christ, there is a NEW Creation...*

The thing about creations is that they are living, moving, organic organisms – just like the people who inhabit them. That would be you and me! We can't always predict what our own next move will be, so how can we possibly predict how and when even God's creation can shift and change? ("Do I need a mask, or don't I?")

The Good News of the Easter Gospel is that in all that happens, God's will for the Creation and for us is LIFE – Life in all its fullness. As we live into the New Creation won for us on the cross by Jesus, as we look to what brings LIFE to the world around us, we are truly living as Easter People. It doesn't bring an end to all life's troubles and quandaries, but it DOES give us the gift of approaching them with unrelenting hope.

Blessings of this Holy Season,
Pastor Hoffman

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FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am thinking about the word “repent.” Unbidden, Bonnie Tyler’s 80’s hit, “Total Eclipse of the Heart” begins playing in my head, over and over. “Turn around, turn around, turn around...”

Thankfully, the Holy Spirit eclipses Bonnie Tyler’s voice and gently, but firmly compels me to turn towards God while reexamining my life.



Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful

Slow to anger

And abounding in steadfast love. Joel 2:13

During this Lenten season, I am embracing this opportunity to turn around, to ask forgiveness for what I have done and for what I have not done, to express my gratitude for the many blessings in my life, to ponder what I can do differently so that my life better reflects my faith.

I am also trying to find a better balance in my daily activities, so that my care for others is enhanced by caring for my own mental and physical health. All of these thoughts are accompanied by my prayers for discernment - how can I best participate in countering the atrocities of war with my faith and my actions? I ask God to help and guide me.

I imagine you are sharing many of the same thoughts, yes?

Last Wednesday, Pastor Paul Hoffman announced that it was the 70th Anniversary of the forming of Luther Memorial Church. 70 years! We are called to actively share Christ’s love in our church neighborhood and beyond, and God continues to richly bless and encourage our ministry. I am so grateful for the wise leadership and spiritual guidance of Pastor Hoffman over the last many months. Please pray for our Call Committee members as they complete their interviews and present a candidate of choice for our next pastor.

As I wrap up this letter, a new song dances into my ears. “Turn! Turn! Turn!” by The Byrds (1965) was based on Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. May your turning and returning to Christ bring you new insight, renewed faith, and great hope in our future together.

Julie E. Moe
Council President

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In-Person & YouTube Live Stream Worship Sunday @ 10:30am

YouTube Live Stream Worship links and instructions:

For upcoming live stream event: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6reljQJuFBuOvnbeAF31sA/live>. When the event goes live, you will be able to watch the event in real-time. When the event is complete, the event will be recorded and saved as a video.

For past events: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6reljQJuFBuOvnbeAF31sA> will show the past events/videos for you to watch.

We suggest you subscribe our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6reljQJuFBuOvnbeAF31sA>, then click on the bell icon to turn on the notifications, it will send you email notifications for upcoming events.

Lent and Holy Week Schedule

WEDNESDAY, 30 MARCH 2022

+WEDNESDAY MIDWEEK WORSHIP

ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS, Jesus heals an unnamed man who was born without sight

Holden Evening Prayer; In-person and Livestreamed; 7:00 p.m. Pr Paul Hoffman, preaching

SUNDAY, 3 APRIL 2022

+THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

In-person and Livestreamed Worship; Celebration Hall; 10:30 a.m.

Guest Pastor Mary Lindberg will be preaching and presiding

WEDNESDAY, 6 APRIL 2022

+WEDNESDAY MIDWEEK WORSHIP

ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS, Lazarus is raised by Jesus

Holden Evening Prayer; In-person and Livestreamed; 7:00 p.m. Pr Gary Southerton, preaching

SUNDAY, 10 APRIL 2022

+SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY

In-person and Livestreamed Worship; Celebration Hall; 10:30 a.m.

Set-up following worship for Easter Sunday.

FRIDAY, 15 APRIL 2022

+GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

Reading of the Passion According to St. John; St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 3:00 p.m.

In Person and Livestreamed

SUNDAY, 17 APRIL 2022

+EASTER SUNDAY

In-person and Livestreamed Worship; LMLC Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.

Choir Rehearsals for Holy Week and Easter Preps

9:30 – 10:30am on 4/3, 4/10 and 4/17.

OFFICE HOURS

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

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

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

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

The call committee interviewed three pastoral candidates over the past two weeks. We met on 3/20/22 and narrowed down the candidates. We will be offering in person interviews to 2 candidates. Those interviews will take place on Saturday, 2 April.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Recent Worship Attendance

Sunday, 20 Feb - 26

Sunday, 27 Feb - 28

Sunday, 6 Mar - 19

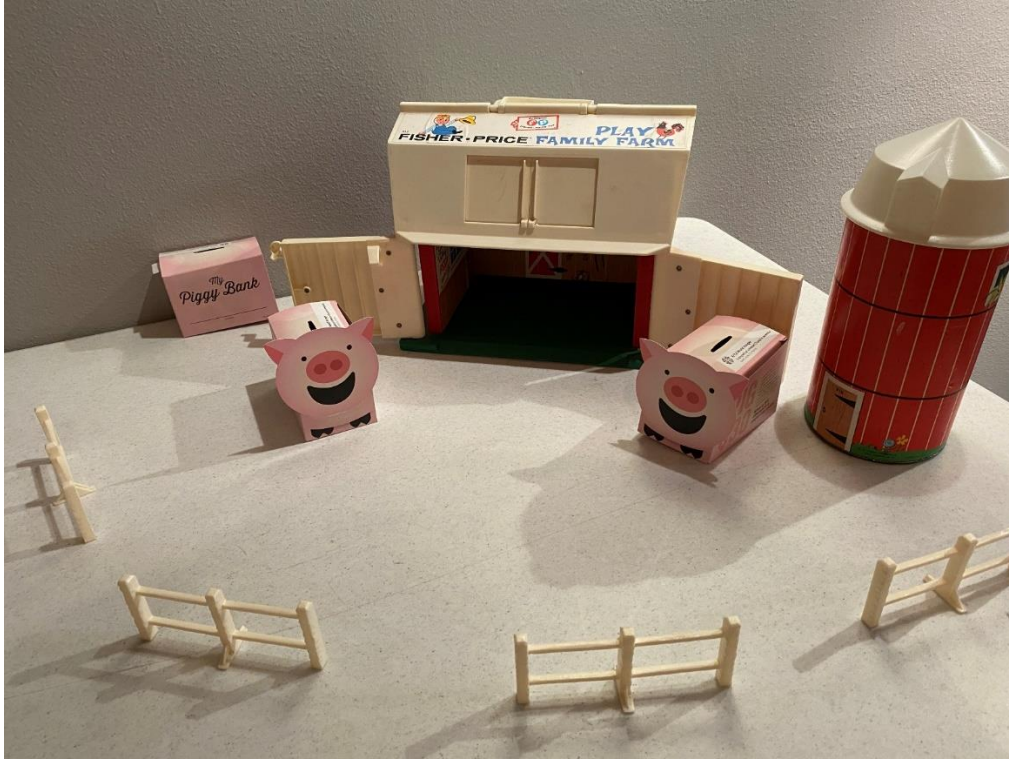
Sunday, 13 Mar - 24

Sunday, 20 Mar – 29

Sunday, 27 Mar – 28

Return Your World Hunger Piggy Banks

The farm has been set up and the piggies (banks, that is!) are beginning to populate the pig pen. Your pink piggy bank, found in the Lenten Devotional Bags, would be welcome to join with the others. Bring your piggy bank back on or before Easter Sunday and put your name on it if you'd like your offering recorded. The proceeds of all the banks will be split 50/50 between our own LMLC Free Little Pantry and the ELCA World Hunger.



Lilies for Easter Sunday

It is our fervent hope to return to the sanctuary for worship by Easter Sunday. With that in mind, it's time to think about ordering a lily. You can do so most easily on-line, and there is also a tear-off form provided in the Sunday bulletin beginning 27 March. All funds beyond those needed to provide flowers for Easter worship will be split 50/50 between the ELCA World Hunger Appeal for Ukraine and our own Free Little Pantry.

Be a *Steward of the Earth*, Adopt a garden at LMC
It's a big job....many hands make light work!

News from your Property Committee

It doesn't seem to matter what the ask is at Luther Memorial....you are always there!
Whether it be cleaning out the furnace room, adopting a garden plot to make our grounds beautiful, supporting with funding for a new furnace, set up and clean-up of the sanctuary, encouraging words, and your prayers. It all happens, *Because of You!*

If you saw Pastor Hoffman's Mid-week update, you will know that the old furnace is on its way out and the new will be going in soon. Thanks to James and his crew. Heat will be here by the end of April. Almost all the garden plots have been adopted. Thank you to those who are able to lend a helping hand.

Thank you,
Laurie Meade and Marilyn Enloe

Did you know?

This March it will be three years since the first tenants moved into Compass Broadview!

A liaison team, BDV/LMLC Partnership, meets the first Tuesday of each month to get updates and find out how we can continue our support to those who live there. What a vibrant ministry, led by Anne Bailey and her team. Covid has taken a toll, but about 75% of the current residents have been safely housed for the three years. Eighteen residents came directly from homelessness. We continue our collaboration by helping with events and donating when needed. As always, our prayers for the residents and staff are a welcome support.

Thank you.

Current Update on Furnace Fund and Installation

With overwhelming generosity, the members and friends of LMLC have reached out to fund our furnace. As of this writing, the total of gifts and pledges stands at \$25,008. Thank you to all who have contributed. If you've not yet made a gift and are able to do so, that gift will be so welcomed and appreciated! Thank you in advance. Our technician is "very optimistic" that the new unit will be up and running in time for us to return to the sanctuary for worship on Easter Sunday. Great news, all around! Thanks again.

