



# LUTHER MEMORIAL

lutheran church

## Quarterly Messenger

### Winter 2022



Rev. Sara Funkhouser, Lead Pastor  
Julie E. Moe, Council President

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church  
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## FROM PASTOR SARA FUNKHOUSER

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appears.” - ELW#257 O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

We pray together for God to come, to enter into our space, to stir up something new in our midst. This hymn serves as our Gospel acclamation during the season of Advent, but despite its placement in the Advent section of our hymnal, it can serve as a beautiful reminder for why we gather together in worship at any time of year.



In January 2018, myself and 9 other classmates stood with Franciscan monks in the grotto at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the location that marks the supposed birth site of Jesus, as the monks chanted “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” This wasn’t just a show for tourists, although it was incredible to witness, but a genuine prayer for God to come and dwell among us, especially in a place that has been experiencing intense violence and conflict for centuries.

So, this Advent as we gather, we center the Advent wreath in the midst of the congregation, as a visible witness to our prayer, for Christ to be truly present in our community. The light from the candles is reminding us that God is already present in our space with us, even as we are in the season of waiting for his birth. To remember the stories, to hear again the promises of God.

I cannot find the words to express how grateful I am to be spending this Advent and Christmas time as your pastor. I have always found this time of year to be so meaningful, and it feels truly special to be experiencing this season for the first time as a called and ordained minister. I had a professor in Seminary who reminded us to take an extra moment to cherish the ministry we are called to during this season, especially on Christmas Eve when the lights are turned down and everyone’s faces are lit by candlelight. I already know that this will be a special experience for me this year.

I also know that this congregation doesn’t often have Christmas Day services, but because of the calendar this year, Christmas Day happens to fall on a Sunday. We will be gathering for a time to hear Scripture and hymns together during Lessons and Carols; to continue celebrating the Christmas season! Selfishly, I am thrilled that we will be gathering that day still, as conveniently Christmas Day is the 6 month anniversary of my ordination. I get to spend that day with you all, in a season that I love, in a Sanctuary so thoughtfully decorated by all of you; I don’t know if I can think of any better celebration than that!

Peace and blessings to you during this holiday season,  
Pastor Sara Funkhouser

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## FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Luther Memorial Friends in Christ,

My head is still ringing with the beautiful sounds from last night's PLU Christmas Concert. Various carols are tumbling over one another as they compete to be the primary song playing in my mind. I browsed through Advent hymns this morning, searching for some particularly meaningful verse, and smiled as I found these words from *Unexpected and Mysterious*.



***“We are called to ponder myst’ry and await the coming Christ,  
To embody God’s compassion for each fragile human life.  
God is with us in our longing to bring healing to the earth,  
While we watch with joy and wonder for the promised Savior’s birth.*”**

During this holy Advent season, preparing to celebrate the birth of Christ, I am filled with hope for the future of Luther Memorial and our mission to actively share Christ’s love in our community. I’m not sure if you know this, but we worked together with our Foss neighbors who generously supplied a dozen families from Broadview Thomson School with a complete Thanksgiving meal. Foss did all the cooking and packaging and Eric, Mary, Pastor Sara and I distributed the meals with the help of Senait, the family advocate at the school. There are so many possibilities for service within our community. We would love to hear *your* ideas and we’d love to have *your* help as we continue to live out our mission.

Would you do me a big favor? Could you spend some time in prayer and thoughtfully consider your own involvement at Luther Memorial? It’s easy to continue giving your time, talent, and treasure in an “automatic pilot” kind of way, but I challenge you to truly consider where/how you could do things a little differently. Again, there are so many possibilities. Perhaps you can give a little more of your treasure in 2023. Or courageously offer some ideas and suggestions that we have not yet heard. Or commit to spending a certain amount of time volunteering in some capacity. Call a member you haven’t seen in a while. Bring something for the Little Free Pantry. Bring treats for Sunday Coffee Hour - thank you, Shirley, for your yummy homemade bread last Sunday! Commit to joining a committee of interest for one year, or, dare I say it, reply with YES when someone asks you to serve on our Congregation Council for 2023.

Speaking of which... this is my last official letter as President of our Congregation Council. It has been an honor to serve as your president, and I have truly enjoyed this work. Thank you for your support these last few years! I need to spend more time with my beloved Darryl, and I pray that a new leader will take the challenge of leading us into 2023 with our wonderful Pastor Sara.

Thank you again for being such a loving, faithful community in Christ!  
With great hope and gratitude,

Julie E. Moe  
Council President

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## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### 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.

## OFFICE HOURS

**Monday:** 9:00am – 1:00pm (Pastor Sara Funkhouser)

**Tuesday:** 9:00am-12:30pm, then @Foss 1pm-5pm (Pastor Sara Funkhouser)

**Wednesday:** 9:00am – 3:00pm (Pastor Sara Funkhouser)

**Thursday:** 1:00pm – 3:00pm (Pastor Sara Funkhouser)

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

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

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

### Recent Worship Attendance

Sunday, 6, November - 22

Sunday, 13, November - 25

Sunday, 20, November - 21

Sunday, 27, November - 27

Sunday, 4, December – 29



## Luther Memorial Lutheran Church Financial Information Through October 2022

	Through October 2022	2022 Year Budget
<b>Revenue</b>		
Offerings	94776.82	120380.00
Foss Commitment Fund	6666.64	0.00
Other Gifts and income	1981.27	1000.00
Restricted Income	23119.72	13333.00
Revenue Total	<u>\$ 126,544.45</u>	<u>\$ 134,713.00</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Compensation Related	89393.63	139979.00
Administrative	11824.77	13200.00
Property	20610.21	21200.00
Worship & Music	1143.96	1450.00
Youth	408.41	600.00
Outreach	23168.00	1650.00
Synod	7083.30	8500.00
Expenses Total	<u>\$ 153,632.28</u>	<u>\$ 186,579.00</u>
<b>Operations Net</b>	<b>\$ (27,087.83)</b>	<b>\$ (51,866.00)</b>
Budgeted withdrawal from ELCA Fund	30000.00	30000.00
<b>Total Net Gain/(Loss)</b>	<u><u>\$ 2,912.17</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (21,866.00)</u></u>

Offerings through October represent 78.7% of the 2022 Offering Budget amount. This is slightly better than the historical average of 76.0%. However, that % has not been enough. Each year has fallen short of the related Offering Budget amount.

Compensation and related expenses are lower than projected because the transition from interim pastor to called pastor occurred later than expected.

Outreach expenses are much higher than budgeted because no amounts were budgeted for the Food Ministry and Kaleidoscope programs. The Kaleidoscope expenses are offset by funds received and recorded in Restricted Income above. The Food Ministry is largely, but not fully, covered by your donations which are also recorded in Restricted Income.

## News from your Property Committee

Our furnace installer, James, has identified the issue with the furnace not working properly and is fixing the problem. Luckily it is an easy to replace, inexpensive part and will be completed this week. I just got the Western Exterminator report for the church grounds and there is No Activity for the first time in a long time. Keeping the weeds under control is key to maintaining a rodent free environment. The parking lot door locks are being addressed. Ice melt has been purchased in the event that we have snow or ice. It will be used on the stairs and entrance walkways. Yellow paint has been added to the small area on the sidewalk adjacent to the parking lot entrance for a No Parking zone. Also the yellow edge of the stairs leading up to the west side doors was refreshed.

Marilyn and Laurie

## Youth Ministry Update

The youth of LMLC were invited to share what they have been up to lately in their lives. Below are a few responses, with more to follow in upcoming newsletters!

Jed Tehark is very committed to his soccer team the Emerald City Football Club. Twice a week practice and weekend games along with out of town tournaments keep him busy. In October and part of November, he played on the water polo team for his high school, Shorewood High. He really enjoyed trying out a new sport and plans on joining a water polo club this summer at Innis Arden. Jed has also gotten back into piano. Although the pandemic stalled his lessons at the Music School of the Northwest, he has now started playing again. The rest of his time is filled with schoolwork and video games! :)

Jackson Terhark is a junior at the University of Washington! He's studying Environmental Science and is working part time at "Capita Snowboards" in their warehouse in Ballard. He lives off campus with some friends and is doing really well!

Lillian Long is a junior and is particularly enjoying playing the violin in Concert Orchestra and singing in Concert Choir at Shorewood High School in Shoreline. In addition to her involvement in music, she enjoys supporting the drama department. She has volunteered behind the scenes for the Fall plays both years. She also performed in Shorewood's Spring musical Peter and the Star Catcher last year. She is preparing herself for auditions for this school year's Spring musical. Lillian also enjoys taking rock climbing courses at Vertical World North. During the last course she took, she earned her belayer's certification allowing her to control the safety rope for another climber. She spends her free time painting and sketching.

Audrey Long is a 6th grader at Einstein Middle School. She has been taking ice skating lessons until recently when the Highland Ice Arena closed their doors. She is hoping to pick up lessons again at another venue. She enjoys playing the flute in band at school and is looking forward to her first middle school concert this week! She loves curling up with a good book, listening to Broadway musical soundtracks, and getting outside to spot wildlife.

Emma Long is also a 6th grader at Einstein Middle School in Shoreline. She plays viola in the school orchestra and is also excited about her first concert of the school year. In September she started taking weekly tennis lessons that she is enjoying very much! She hopes to continue her lessons until ultimate frisbee starts back up in the Spring. Both she and her sister Audrey play on a Shoreline team that plays matches all around Seattle. Emma enjoys reading fantasy novels and learning new skills from YouTube. Her latest goal has been to teach herself how to knit and speak French.

Keiko Long



*please join us for*

# Christmas Worship

*December 24th at 7pm  
December 25th (lessons and carols)  
at 10:30am*

*Available in-person, Livestreamed,  
or recorded on YouTube.*



December 2022



## From the Bishop:

I took the quilt to the cleaners to get washed. They looked at it and handed it back. If we touch this, they said, it will fall apart.

To most eyes, the quilt is nothing to look at. The bright yellow ducklings have long faded to muted colors. The binding is frayed. Happy, my dog from childhood, chewed holes in the fabric where stuffing came out and repair was never finished. (Happy did this to many sheets and blankets in my growing up years. My sisters and I called them “Happy holes.” My mom did not.)

From the time I was a toddler, this quilt has held my laughter, tears, secrets, sleep, insomnia, sickness, health, anger. In darkness, this quilt surrounded me in warmth. Years later, my children were wrapped in this same quilt.

Long before my grandma quilted my “duckie” blanket and gave it to me, there was a young family without permanent shelter and a baby soon to be born. The village midwives came into the night to help birth a baby for a family unknown. They came to an unhoused couple, a foreign couple, a poor couple with no prospects or power. And yet, these midwives left their warm houses and their own families, bringing their own handmade blankets and strips of cloth as they participated in this baby’s birth. And, when he was born, they wrapped this child and his mom in warmth.

We know this because we hear the angels’ words to the shepherds, “This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ Surely if the baby was wrapped in bands of cloth, the child was also wrapped in blankets.

What a difference it would have been without these blankets, without these swaddling cloths, without these midwives. Without the skills and the gifts God gave to them. The vocation of midwife brought Jesus into the world. The hands and wisdom of these women wrapped him in swaddling cloths.

It is such an amazing story ... through God’s invitation, and from Mary saying yes and Joseph saying yes and the innkeeper saying yes and the midwives saying yes – Jesus came.

Two thousand years ago, in a way no one could have imagined, God was with us in human form. Wrapped in blankets. Held in love.

What love, what grace, what beauty. Amazingly and almost inconceivably, in this little baby, God’s love came and God’s love continues to be among us through Jesus – Immanuel, Incarnate, God-in-the-flesh love. Embodied love ... for you and for me. Always.

I know that life is messy. Life is sometimes hard. Sometimes the world seems out of control and we are so small against so much of what is out there. And yet ... through something as small and vulnerable as a newborn baby, we are promised that God is here. Amongst us. And God’s love is for everyone. Absolutely everyone. Regardless of your job or your political party, your anxiety or your income. Your ethnicity, your language, your gender, your situation in life. God’s love is for you who celebrate this holy day and God’s love is for those who don’t. God’s love is for those you are estranged from and those you embrace.

This Christmas and this year, may you feel surrounded by God’s love and presence. In your laughter, tears, secrets, sleep, insomnia, sickness, health, anger - in darkness and in light may you feel God wrapping you into God’s embrace ... like a worn, faded blanket that is covered in ducks and Happy holes.

Have a Blessed Christmas,  
Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



## From the VEEP

Advent is a time of waiting, anticipating, and expecting. This year I find myself thinking about the expectant women of this Nativity story: Elizabeth and Mary – two cousins on either end of reasonable childbearing age, both touched and marked by God to bring forth new life against all expectations.

Elizabeth, of course, has had the longer wait. She has long lived with the shame of being barren. The angel speaks to Mary and Zechariah, but not to Elizabeth. Her husband's questioning of Gabriel left him mute. We don't know what, if anything, he was able to convey to Elizabeth about what was about to befall her. I wonder how long it took her to realize what was happening. I have a friend who, in her forties and after nearly twenty years of trying, became pregnant. Her menstrual cycle had always been erratic, so when she missed a period and then another, she thought maybe she was entering early menopause. Imagine her surprise when she went to the doctor and found out she was, at long last, going to have a baby. Shock, joy, anxiety, even a little fear. I think this may have been Elizabeth's experience, too.

And then there is Mary. Her pregnancy is even more of a surprise than Elizabeth's. How, she wonders can what the angel says be true? After all, she is a virgin. And what will her neighbors think? If Elizabeth has been disgraced because she was barren, will Mary be disgraced for conceiving? After Gabriel shares the news of Elizabeth's pregnancy with her, Mary journeys into the hill country to visit her cousin, who has been in seclusion. So, there they are, two women, one old, one young, sharing the experience of first-time pregnancy. Mary stays for three months, which must bring her very close to the time when Elizabeth gives birth. We don't know what passes between them in those months, but I suspect they were figuring out what to expect while they were expecting.

And as we wait, now, what do we expect while we are expecting? God is constantly bringing forth new life, new relationships, and new ways of being. Will we recognize the signs that the world is once again expecting? Will we disregard them as signs of our advancing years? Will we mistake the beginning for the end of life? Matthew and Mark both warn us not to be led astray nor alarmed by war, rumors of war, famine, and earthquakes because they are not the end, but rather the beginning of the birth pangs of the new age.

In this advent season, let us revel in the joy of expectant new birth. Let us wait breathlessly for the first quickening- the first movement of new life. Let us be alert. Let us endure the discomfort and pain as we labor. Let us not be afraid.

Here I'd like to plug an event and a book:

- Consider attending our second LiVE Retreat on December 3 at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in Seattle: *The Spirituality of Waiting* ([learn more and register here](#))
- Anne Garrett, of my oldest friends (and fellow Lutheran) has just published *Hush: True Stories of Pregnancy-Related Death and Near-Miss in the U.S.A.* As we consider the metaphorical birth process this Advent, it is worth remembering that not all pregnancies are safe or healthy and that the maternal death rate in the US continues to be too high.

Here's what I or the Synod Council have been up to in November:

- Synod Council Retreat November 4-5 at Dumas Bay Retreat Center: In addition to learning about how our council fits into the three expressions of the church, learning about our strengths as leaders, and furthering our Intercultural Development training, we held a short business meeting.
- Continued participating in the learning opportunities provided by the LiVE Project, including the weekly FREE study on the book of Acts ([learn more here](#) and drop in any time!)

Kay Edgerton

Vice President of the NW Washington Synod

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