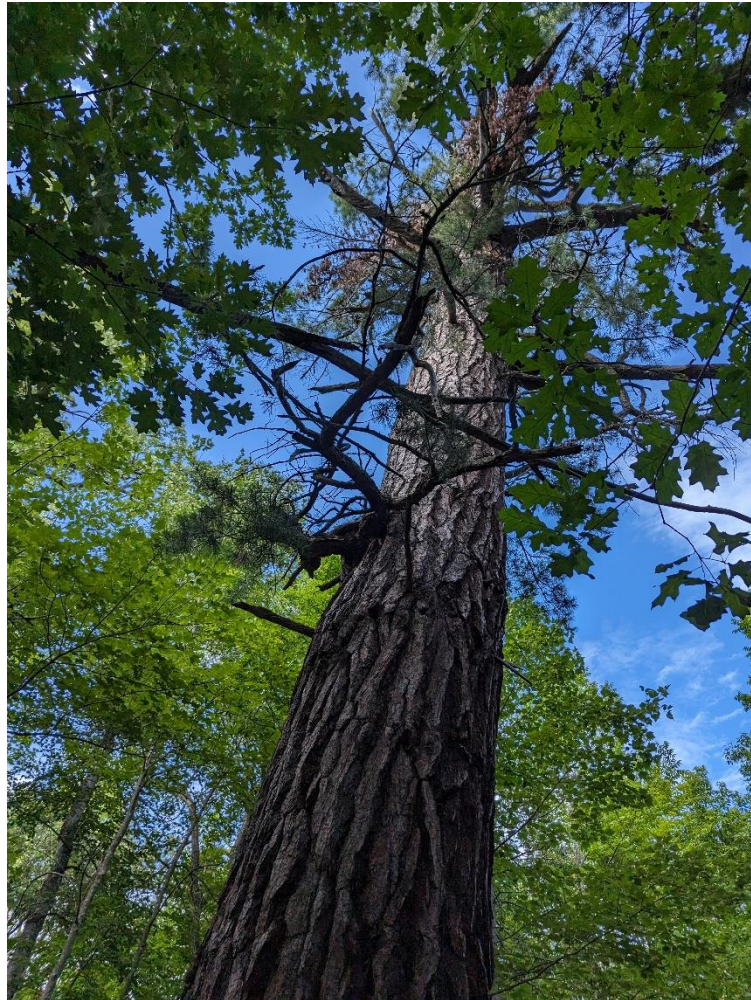




LUTHER MEMORIAL  
lutheran church

# Quarterly Messenger 2023 Fall Edition



Rev. Sara Funkhouser, Lead Pastor  
Donna Smith, Council President

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church  
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Seattle, WA 98133  
206-364-2510

## FROM PASTOR SARA FUNKHOUSER

*“Jesus presented another parable to the crowds: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like the mustard seed which a farmer sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all—it becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come to perch in its branches.’”*

*-Matthew 13: 31-32 (Inclusive Version)*



As we prepare for Celebration Sunday and the return of fall schedules and activities, the verses that have been guiding the Council and the Worship & Music Committee have been the parable of the mustard seed. That something so seemingly small can grow larger than imaginable and continue to have a positive impact on the world around it gives us hope for the growth of our community.

Luther Memorial, dear friends, is like this mustard seed. We are small, but we are mighty! We continue to show up to support each other and the community around us, despite being a small congregation. So, this Celebration Sunday, in addition to returning us to our fall activities, is also meant to help us celebrate all the ways that this community comes together to be a mighty force in our community. We celebrate the work of our pantry team who stock our Little Free Pantry each day. We celebrate the property committee and its volunteers who pick up garbage, tend to the plants, and make sure that building problems are solved expeditiously. We celebrate everyone who assists with making our worship time flow smoothly. We want to help you all find ways to be connected more fully to this community and help our roots grow deeper. Would you be interested in volunteering, joining a small group, or helping with worship? Perhaps you might have an entirely different idea of something you'd like to do at Luther Memorial. I would love to hear about that! As we heard on Sunday, we are one body with many members and many gifts.

It is a great honor to serve this community as your pastor, and to reflect on all the ways we have grown as we use our gifts together. So, in this new season, may we keep growing our roots deeper and our branches wider as we actively show Christ's love in our community.

Peace,

Peace, Pastor Sara Funkhouser

206-364-2510

[pastorsara@luthermemoralseattle.com](mailto:pastorsara@luthermemoralseattle.com)

## FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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Dear Luther Memorial Friends in Christ,

Fall is here and all the fall activities at LMLC have begun! Many thanks to all who participated in developing the summer worship schedule. Also thank you to everyone who helped maintain the yard and gardens surrounding our church over the summer months.



Back in the day I remember the first day of school included buying a new outfit and new shoes! It is fun to start fresh, and we can do the same with all the new fall activities scheduled at LMLC. Everyone will have the opportunity to learn about these activities on Celebration Sunday September 17. We look forward to seeing you there!

If you have any questions regarding LMLC fall activities, feel free to contact me, your Council President.

Blessings in Christ,

Donna Smith

LMLC Council President

Cell: 425-971-9581

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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 to 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 and Wednesday:** 9:00am – 2:00pm (Jian Zhang)

**Tuesday:** 10:30am – 3:30pm (Jian Zhang)

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

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

### Recent Worship Attendance

Sunday, 23, July - 14

Sunday, 30, July - 21

Sunday, 9, August - 21

Sunday, 13, August - 21

Sunday, 20, August – 21

Sunday, 27, August - 28

## Luther Memorial Lutheran Church Financial Results Through July 31 2023

Revenue	2023 Actual	2023 Proposed Budget
Pledges	\$ 60,777.08	\$ 102,690.00
Unpledged Offerings	6,990.86	10,000.00
Foss Pastor Share	8,333.30	20,000.00
Room Use	825.00	1,500.00
Gifts and income Other than Offerings	1,498.94	500.00
<b>Unrestricted Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 78,425.18</b>	<b>\$ 134,690.00</b>
Feeding Ministry	6,296.68	10,000.00
Kaleidoscope Revenue	1,666.74	0.00
Neighborhood Outreach	0.00	1,500.00
<b>Restricted Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 7,963.42</b>	<b>\$ 11,500.00</b>
Transfer from Ministry Growth Fund	20,000.00	40,000.00
From Dedicated Acc't for Musician's Salary	3,500.00	6,000.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 109,888.60</b>	<b>\$ 192,190.00</b>
Expenses	Actual	Proposed Budget
Staff Compensation (Pastor, Office Admin, Musician, Bookkeeper, Custodian)	\$ 75,894.45	\$ 126,845.00
Administrative	9,501.98	20,450.00
Property	15,017.97	23,900.00
Worship & Music	1,298.87	1,500.00
Christian Education	92.00	450.00
Fellowship	0.00	250.00
Evangelism	6,237.04	9,500.00
Synod	3,553.76	5,800.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 111,596.07</b>	<b>\$ 188,695.00</b>
<b>Projected Surplus</b>	<b>\$ (1,707.47)</b>	<b>\$ 3,495.00</b>

Pledges/Unpledged Offerings - The combined balance of these 2 accounts represents 60.1% of their combined annual budget. This compares with a 55.7% average Actual to Budget for the previous 6 years. The average of Actual through July to Actual for the previous 6 years is 60.2%. The current 60.1% of Budget compared to the 60.2% average for the full year Actual for the previous 6 years, indicates reaching Budget for these accounts is possible.

Kaleidoscope Revenue - This amount is a 'catchup' payment relating to 2022.

Withdrawal from MGF - The 2 withdrawals of \$10,000 were received in April and July. An additional withdrawal should be considered near term to facilitate the accounting transfer.

Christian Education, Fellowship - No major programs have been initiated during this period.

Evangelism - The expenses shown are primarily for the Food Ministry.

Expense accounts most OVER projected July budget: Insurance - \$1,450\*, Heat - \$1,175, Tech & Software -\$457, Copier - \$425, Worship Supplies - \$324.

Expense accounts most UNDER projected July budget: Maintenance - \$1,673\*\*, Outreach - \$592, Office Supplies - \$568, Electricity - \$420, Bank Charges - \$353.

\* - Largely due to duplicate payment due to present payment system which will likely change with Accounting change.

\*\* - Budget included shed which has not been built.



**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church  
Ministry Growth Fund as of  
July 31 2023**

<b>Beginning Balance, January 1, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 703,394.45</b>
<b>    Addition</b>	<b>14,829.30</b>
<b>    Withdrawals</b>	<b>(20,000.00) *</b>
<b>    Change in market value</b>	<b><u>60,672.70</u></b>
<b>Ending Balance as of July 31 2023</b>	<b><u><u>\$ 758,896.45</u></u></b>

Proceeds from the sale of Luther Memorial's parking area are invested in the above ELCA sponsored fund. The Fund is administered by 2 outside financial firms.

Additions are from the annual distribution for 2023. The distribution is paid quarterly and represents 4.0% of the average market value of the 5 previous year ends.

A \$40,000 total withdrawal is included in the 2023 Budget approved at the annual meeting. Withdrawals totaling \$20,000 have been completed through July.

\* - An additional withdrawal of \$10,000 was made during the latter part of August.

The Fund's investment holdings are valued at market value (marked to market) each month. The total of these holdings plus cash held by the Fund determines the value of each Fund unit. That unit valuation times the number of units held in account for LMLC determines the ending balance with the change from January 1's balance being reflected in the 'Change in market value' amount.

Any holdings the Fund liquidated would result in a 'realized' gain or loss. However, for any holdings continuing to be held by the Fund, the changes to valuation are 'unrealized' (paper) gains or losses which may be reversed in the future.

## Property Committee Report

The property committee has been busy this summer. Ongoing summer maintenance has continued with lawn mowing, weeding, dead heading rhododendrons, spreading wood chips around the garden plots, refilling rain barrels, power washing sidewalks, washing building siding, window washing. A big thank you to Bill and Laurie Meade, Lynne Greenup, Leia Smith, Keiko Long, Bob and Marilyn Enloe.

The Spring work party helped get a jumpstart. Maybe it is time to set a date for a fall work party to get ready for winter. Always, as the saying goes, many hands make for light work.

The doorknob into the office needed replacing after the unfortunate incident of Jian being locked inside the office unable to turn the loose knob to get out! Yikes. After consideration, his only route of escape was through the office window! A second occurrence of this issue, happening to Laurie Meade, (she didn't attempt the window escape!) caused Bill to jump into action and start the process of replacing the knob. Because of its age, it was not an easy repair. Ask Bill and Laurie about their pursuit of a replacement. Seems that nothing is ever easy! Thank you to Bill and Laurie!

Other projects under investigation for repair are.... doorbell, camera system, push bar door lock on entry to narthex, roof repair, keypad entry system. As our loved building ages, the need to keep up on maintenance is a priority.

Greg, Karin's son who is an electrician was able to solve the electrical outlet issue in the office by locating a breaker in the panel in the furnace room that was tripped. The electrical plugs now work. We are going to meet with him to ask about the lawn spotlights and get input about changing light bulbs that are not LED. Also want to ask about operation of the timers on celebration hall lights. They do not seem to be working.

Todd Sunn repaired a leaking faucet and supply line in the men's room.

The continuing issue of leaving trash in the parking lot and near the pantry, is ongoing.

The pantry crew is continually needing to clean up trash as well as find a place for disposal of larger items. It is too bad that our mission to serve those in need is not appreciated by all.

Thank you to the pantry volunteers!

Laurie Meade, Marilyn Enloe

## Worship and Music Committee

We now have a Worship and Music Committee who is excited to begin working with Pastor in planning for services for the upcoming year. The committee has been busy planning for “Celebration Sunday” on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this group is to....

- Help brainstorm Themes for the Seasons
- Share any feedback from worshippers about service suggestions.
- Share about LM traditions both old and new.
- What should worship look like?
- Liturgy to use and input of selection of hymns for worship.

If this is something you are interested in and would like to participate in the life and ministry of our community, please let pastor know.

## Compass Broadview LMC

There has been a temporary change in leadership at Compass. Anne Bailey will be filling in as interim program manager at the Auburn site through October 2023. Corinne McKisson will be the interim program director at Compass Broadview. She is the Program Manager at Ronald Commons. Tracey Cunningham and Spencer will continue their work at Broadview.

Our support as community members is important. We continue to look for ways to support the team at Compass.

We are invited to help with an upcoming event:

### **Broadview’s Back to School Bash**

Help the Compass Broadview kids arrive in style to lunch this year by donating a lunch pail or lunch bag to their Back to School Bash. If you are able and interested, please have your donation to church in early September. Compass has 60 school age kids so thank you in advance for your generous donation. It’s fun to go lunch box shopping!



# Community Events

9:30 am 9.17 Celebration Sunday!

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11:45 am 9.24 First Day of Confirmation

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10:30 am 9.25 Book Club (Zoom)

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9:30 am 10.01 Adult Education/Fellowship

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9:30 am 10.04 Seekers Begins (Sunday School Room)

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12:30 pm 10.08 Potluck and Board Games

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6:30 pm 10.28 Halloween Movie Night!

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## Recurring Events Starting in October:

9:30 am 1st Sun. Adult Education and Fellowship

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12:30 pm 2nd Sun. Potluck and Board Games

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# Volunteer Opportunities

## Yard Care

- Water plants
- Weed
- Mow the lawn
- Pick up trash
- Help make our yard look beautiful!

## Altar Care

- Prepare communion bread
- Pre-fill communion cups
- Set the altar table
- Change the paraments on the altar

## Socials

- Prepare and/or serve food
- Provide hospitality to families
- Purchase food as necessary
- Set and take down tables

## Assisting Minister

- Assist Pastor Sara
- Serve communion
- Lead prayers and dismissal
- Steward worship in our community

## Usher

- Welcome people to worship
- Collect offering
- Light and extinguish candles
- Turn on/off lights
- Turn on/off sound system

## Foss Transport

- Gather and return residents from Foss Home and Foss Village
- Sit with our visitors from Foss and help them feel welcome

## Note :

These are just a few of the ways that you can participate in the life and ministry of this congregation. On Celebration Sunday, there will be an opportunity to learn more about these volunteer positions, as well as other opportunities in our community. Perhaps you would like to be connected with Foss to visit with residents there, or you would like to tutor at Broadview-Thomson. Or, maybe you would like to sing in the choir or offer special music during worship. There might be some other ways that you would like to be involved, in which case, we welcome your ideas!

Also, a note of thanks to everyone who already serves in our community to help us be a mighty congregation! Your hours of service are deeply appreciated.

September 2023



## From the Bishop:

I went to the musical *1776* a few nights ago where I learned some new things about how the Declaration of Independence came to be written. As I watched, I felt proud to be an American – to be part of a group of people who wanted freedom from tyranny, freedom to vote, freedom from an empire far away.

There were also moments in this play when I was horrified at some decisions made. At the last minute, the clause to abolish slavery was removed so that all of the representatives would sign the document. The most powerful song in the musical, *Molasses to Rum*, reminds the audience how all the colonies were complicit in the selling of humans – not just the south. (<https://genius.com/John-cullum-molasses-to-rum-lyrics>)

As an American, I hold two realities. First, I rejoice in the wonder and aspiration of the United States of America. I am grateful for this country and I love what it is striving to be. At its best, it is a country where freedom and liberty are supreme. It is a place where care is given to those arriving on its shores. It is a place where people can freely go to church and other places of worship (or not go at all). In short, the United States is a promise of what can be.

At the same time, I hold the truth of this country's sins. Enslaved men built the White House, the U.S. Capitol building, and others. Homes of former presidents including George Washington's Mount Vernon and James Madison's Montpelier were built by men "owned" by them. The land that we in the Northwest Washington Synod are living on was once land that belonged to Samish and Duwamish, Lummi, and Muckleshoot and many others. Japanese people were unjustly imprisoned during World War II. Sundown laws and redlining laws were written throughout this country. As a white woman, I know that I could not vote until 1919. For women of color, the right to vote did not come until later. People who are part of the LGBTQIA+ communities have been harassed and discriminated against, beaten up and killed in this country. And discriminatory practices and violence continue to this day. In short, the systems in this country have violated and harmed people since its inception.

This is what it means to be an American: to vote, to engage in civic society, to appreciate this country, to grieve past and present sins, and to truthfully stand up and speak when it falls short of its ideals.

But what about those of us who are American and also Christian? Unequivocally it means that as much as one might love this country, this is not where our ultimate allegiance lies. For we are part of the body of Christ that extends beyond the borders of any country. As Lutheran Christians, we know that we are named, chosen, and called by God through Jesus. We hold deeply the joy that we are freed from sin, and, because of this, we are called into radical love, acceptance, and welcome – far beyond being a citizen of any country. We are freed to live beyond racism, injustice, and bigotry. Martin Luther wrote that freedom is a gift from God, not just for our sake, or our country's sake, but for the sake of the world.

Tragically, there are those who want to distort this freedom. To somehow merge Christian and American identities. Rather than freedom, conflating religious authority with political authority leads to tyranny and marginalization - especially of minority groups. Christian Nationalism is neither patriotic nor is it faithful. You do not have to be Christian to be a "true" American. And you do not have to be American to be Christian. At its heart, it is idolatrous. As the First Commandment states, "You shall have no other gods."

Together, as faithful Christians, let us live into Jesus' words –into radical love, acceptance and welcome. Let us speak truth to power and stand with those without power. Let us follow Jesus who commands us to love everyone as our brothers and sisters and siblings including our fellow citizens, those of other belief systems, and those of other nations. Together, as faithful Christians, let us stand up and speak out against Christian Nationalism and any system that marginalizes, harms, and subjugates another. As Jesus announces in the gospel of Luke, *'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'*

For freedom Christ has set us free. May we live and dance and revel in the freedom of Christ.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee / [bishop@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop@lutheransnw.org)



## From the VEEP

"I know a few people who had their first experience with faux meat in the form of a badly prepared Impossible or Beyond burger in a restaurant. If you eat meat and you have an unappealing burger experience, do you give up burgers? Probably not, since you have numerous positive burger experiences as a counterpoint. But if you try a faux burger for the first time and the experience doesn't go well, you have nothing else to compare it to, so ... game over." ("The rise and fall of the faux-meat burger" Carrie Dennett, special to the Seattle Times Sunday July 2, 2023)

What, you may wonder, do reflections on the merits of faux meat burgers have to do with synod matters? Well, recently I served as the synod representative at a call meeting, a VP duty I truly enjoy. The vote was overwhelmingly in favor of calling the candidate, but one of the dissenting voters felt compelled to explain to me the reasoning behind their vote. Apparently, this person had had a female pastor once before and had not found it to be a good experience, and therefore could not vote to call a female pastor ever again. I responded by telling them that we all have different experiences, and we can do no more than vote our consciences. In reality, however, I believe their attitude mirrors that of the faux-burger samplers. I expect that if they thought about it, they would realize they've had many male pastors and I would hope that some of them were excellent, but I imagine some of them were duds, too. It's just that with a larger sample size, it is easier to recognize the diversity and not judge all male pastors based on one bad experience.

To that end, I think it is a good idea to occasionally have our world view expanded a bit. This summer, I was introduced to a BBC game show called "Only Connect." The goal is to find connections between seemingly random clues. I'm usually pretty good at this sort of thing and thought I'd try playing along. Well, it turns out that my knowledge of cricket, snooker, and BBC radio presenters is sorely lacking. I hadn't realized how truly America-centric my world view is until I tried this game. The more I watched, the more I saw how limited my world view is (though I did find myself yelling answers about American football – yes, the Ravens ARE a team - and the TV show MASH at the screen). Being reminded of my own limited cultural experience also helps me be more open minded about similar limitations in other people.

I suspect this is the case for most of us in many different areas of our lives. As the synod begins to work on auditing our policies and procedures with an eye to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, it is important to keep this lesson in mind. The broader our experience, or sample size, the more accurate will be our findings. Please keep synod leadership in your prayers as we embark on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging work requested by the 2022 Synod Assembly.

Here's what the Synod Council and/or I have been up to in July and August:

- Synod Council did not meet in July.
- Synod Executive committee met on August 9, in large part to plan the agenda for the September meeting of the full council, which will take place at Lutherwood. The council will be participating in part of the Sacred Spaces retreat that weekend.
- Synod VP cohort: I attended planning meetings for upcoming VP events.
- Coaching: I have registered for the level 1 coaching training coming up in September.

Kay Edgerton  
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