



LUTHER MEMORIAL
lutheran church

Quarterly Messenger 2023 Winter Edition



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

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
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Seattle, WA 98133
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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)



Dear Luther Memorial,

You may recognize this Scripture passage from last quarter’s Messenger, but it seems pertinent to keep this at the center of our focus. In the fall we celebrated who we are and all that we have done, and we continue to do that as we look toward our life of ministry in 2024.

At the end of January, you’ll receive reports and see budget proposals, but I also want you to think back on what this year has meant for you personally. We are so grateful that you choose to be a part of this faith community. How do you want to be involved with the church in the coming year? In what ways can we continue to grow together in faith and love for the community in 2024?

We are small, but mighty! During this past year, I have felt a positive shift as we’ve found ways of strengthening our connections among each other and outside of our church doors. I’m so glad to have times of education and fellowship together, and I also look forward to growing those opportunities next year. We’ve found community partners who are helping us to feed our neighbors, we’re still working on ways to support Compass housing, and we’ve expanded our contract with Foss Home & Village to provide for the growing spiritual care needs there. While the list of things that we are doing sometimes feels overwhelming, I want to take a moment and acknowledge how far we have come.

There have been a lot of positive changes within our building, as well, including: fixing the Sacristy sink that was leaking, stripping and rewaxing the bathroom tiles, replacing the fire extinguishers that were as old as your pastor, and adding new smoke detectors, heat sensors, and water sensors. We’re looking into purchasing an AED (automatic defibrillator) so that we can provide for the community in the time of medical emergencies. Also, we’ve welcomed many more groups into our building this past year, from weddings to cooking classes to musical groups.

So, as we look to 2024, thank you for everything that you do to make our ministry come alive! We could not function the way that we do without your time, talent, and gifts. Of all the things we have accomplished this past year, I’m most grateful that I was able to walk alongside you for another year of life. Here’s to our next year of vital ministry together!

Peace,

Peace, Pastor Sara Funkhouser

206-364-2510

pastorsara@luthermemoralseattle.com

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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Dear Luther Memorial Friends in Christ,

Advent is already here! Preparing for the coming of the Christ Child is exciting for all, no matter how old we are. All the planning and preparations and traditions for the Christmas season keep us busy, but let's not forget the activities we have scheduled at LMLC this Advent season.



On Wednesday evenings in December (December 6, 13, and 20), we will be meeting at 6pm at LMLC to enjoy an Advent meal followed by a service with Broadview Community United Church of Christ. We hope you will be able to join us and attend these Advent celebrations.

Please also note, on Sunday December 24, (Christmas Eve), there will be no morning worship service and one candlelight service at 4 pm.

Many thanks to everyone who play a part in making this season so special at LMLC!

If you have any questions regarding LMLC activities, feel free to contact me, your Council President, at either my phone number or email address provided below.

Merry Christmas to everyone,

Donna Smith

LMLC Council President

Cell: 425-971-9581

E-mail: council@luthermemoralseattle.com

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

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Recent Worship Attendance

Sunday, 8, October - 23

Sunday, 15, October - 36

Sunday, 22, October - 27

Sunday, 29, October - 32

Sunday, 5, November - 22

Sunday, 12, November - 24

Sunday, 19, November - 26

Sunday, 26, November – 30

Sunday, 3, December - 32

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church Financial Results Through October 31 2023

Revenue	2023 Actual	2023 Proposed Budget
Pledges	\$ 83,136.43	\$ 102,690.00
Unpledged Offerings	6,020.52	10,000.00
Foss Pastor Share	13,333.28	20,000.00
Room Use	3,000.00	1,500.00
Gifts and Income Other than Offerings	1,825.62	500.00
Unrestricted Revenue	\$ 107,315.85	\$ 134,690.00
Feeding Ministry	6,786.68	10,000.00
Kaleidoscope Revenue	1,666.74	0.00
Neighborhood Outreach	0.00	1,500.00
Restricted Revenue	\$ 8,453.42	\$ 11,500.00
Transfer from Ministry Growth Fund	30,000.00	40,000.00
From Dedicated Acc't for Musician's Salary	5,000.00	6,000.00
Total Revenue	\$ 150,769.27	\$ 192,190.00
Expenses	Actual	Proposed Budget
Staff Compensation (Pastor, Office Admin, Musician, Bookkeeper, Custodian)	\$ 106,738.15	\$ 126,845.00
Administrative	14,112.34	20,450.00
Property	21,374.13	23,900.00
Worship & Music	1,478.87	1,500.00
Christian Education	92.00	450.00
Fellowship	0.00	250.00
Evangelism	7,740.04	9,500.00
Synod	4,173.87	5,800.00
Total Expenses	\$ 155,709.40	\$ 188,695.00
Projected Surplus	\$ (4,940.13)	\$ 3,495.00

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

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2023	\$ 703,394.45
 Addition	22,469.39
 Withdrawals	(30,000.00) *
 Change in market value	<u>6,336.77</u>
Ending Balance as of October 31 2023	<u><u>\$ 702,200.61</u></u>

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 \$30,000 have been completed through August.

* - An additional withdrawal of \$10,000 took place in November.

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.

Free Little Pantry News

Thank you for your continued support for the Free Little Pantry. With contributions and memorial dollars, we have been able to fill the pantry each day with a variety of basic food items. Again, this year Broadview Thomson K-8 will contribute their December food drive to our pantry which will help us stretch our resources in the coming months. So, a big thank you to the students and facility for partnering with us again this year. Thank you also to our dedicated volunteers who fill the pantry each day. Without you this ministry would not happen. The need is still great and our pantry small but it provides a much-needed food resource for many.

Mary Hinderliter
Diane Chapman

Property Committee Report

Laurie continues to address those forgotten maintenance issues that need to be on our radar to keep LMLC running smoothly. Thanks to her research and action! There have been issues that needed attention immediately. Here are some of the projects that will be and have been addressed.

- Smoke/Carbon Monoxide detectors ordered and have been mounted. (one in the Narthex, Celebration Hall and office.) Bill and Laurie mounted them.
- Narthex door lock problem fixed. It was just an issue of using the incorrect size allen wrench.
- Sink faucet- pipes-water heater replaced in the Sacristy. The cost was \$600 for labor done by Sam Schwab. Matt Bersch (Donna's grandson) set up the connection with Sam. Matt took care of getting the materials.
- Storm drains in our parking lot are being assessed for clearing out. This will be done in January.
- New cameras have been mounted. Thank you to Spencer.
- Fire extinguishers have been updated. Two have new dates and two new ones have been purchased. They have been strategically mounted around the church. Look around and see if you can locate them!
- Water and heat sensors have been activated. Laurie got these for no cost. Furnace filters replaced,
- Roof repair or replacement estimates have been completed. We have two estimates to consider. One for repair and one for replacement.
- Garbage bin lock has been replaced. Locks have been put on the yard waste bins.
- Laurie researched and received a Grant for a defibrillator. It will be purchased by mid-December.
- Through the effort of many, garbage pick-up on the property continues to be a team effort. Thank you all.

Your Property Committee, Laurie, and Marilyn



Christmas Eve at Luther Memorial

This year we have decided to hold only 1 service on Christmas Eve. Our service will be at 4 P.M., and this means that there will be NO Sunday morning 10:30 A.M. worship that day. I hope you all are able to join us in-person or via the Livestream as we celebrate Christmas together!

Wednesday Worship and Meal in Advent

On Wednesdays in Advent we will be gathering with the members of Broadview UCC for a meal and time of worship, here at Luther Memorial. The weeks will be focused on the following themes for worship:

December 6th: Prayer for the Healing of the Nations

December 13th: Prayer for the Healing of Creation

December 20th: Prayer around the Cross/Advent Wreath

The meal will begin at 6:00 P.M, followed by the time of prayer together.

December 2023



From the Bishop:

We were in a car heading to the Sahara Desert. The weather was changing. I looked out the window and, seeing a dark mass in the distance, said to the driver, "Do you know what a tornado is?" He didn't respond. But in a few short moments, we skidded to a stop on the side of the road. There was no visibility, wind was swirling around us. Rain and sand and rocks were pelting the car. And then the car windows broke from the pressure of the storm. We were suddenly being blown around and all of us in the car were showered with rain and sand and rocks and glass. We huddled in our seats, shocked by the ferociousness of the weather around us and fearful of what was happening.

When I look at our world right now, I confess I feel much the same as I did on that day - like I'm huddling in my seat, shocked by the ferociousness of the wind and fearful of what is happening.

In our world, the climate continues to change and people and the very earth are suffering. We continue to harm this planet that God created for us and for all creatures and plants.

In our Holy Land, as I write this in the middle of November, we hear of Palestinian Christian families fleeing, children crying, hunger and desperation, churches being bombed and hospitals being attacked. In our Holy Land, we hear of violence against the Jewish people, kidnapping of children and old people, and the threat of death.

In our country, there are those who are conflating Christianity with patriotism, those who are moving against Democracy and towards authoritarianism, gun violence continues unabated, legislators refuse to do their work and instead look after their own best interests. There is continued racism in our institutions, polarization, refusal to listen to each other, and more.

In the ELCA, we forget that we are gathering for the sake of Jesus and for those desperate to hear God's Word of forgiveness, love, and grace. We try to prop up institutional ideas rather than living into the Spirit of Christ. We would rather live in the "what once was" rather than the advent of something beyond our imaginations (but not God's).

Truly, the storms seem strong and fierce.

And yet ... and yet ...

In this time, when we not only are living in these swirling squalls, we are called, as people of faith, to remember and trust how God has worked, and continues to work, in this world. We are called to tell the stories of God's faithfulness again. For in the beginning, through God's Word, chaos became the heavens and the earth. Later, Moses saw God in fire. In the story of Job, when Job questioned God's faithfulness, God replied, referring to the stars, 'Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades, or loose the cords of Orion?' When Abraham fought the storm of sacrificing his son, God brought through the darkness a ram. When a country was occupied by Rome, power was held by a few, voices were silenced, and hope seemed fleeting, a young girl became pregnant and sang. A young couple sought shelter far from home.

In a night of storms, one star shone bright. In a world of desolation, a baby's cry was heard.

In this stormy time, in this time of deep shadows and unknowns, in this time of memory and hope, in this Advent and Christmas time, together we lift our voices in and sing:

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

Dear Beloveds of God, I wish you Advent and Christmas blessings and hope.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee / bishop@lutheransnw.org



From the VEEP

“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you; I will help you.” Isaiah 41:10

I was discussing world events with a friend recently and she remarked that she keeps thinking things can't get any worse, and then the world proves her wrong. Terrorism, war, mass shootings, unparalleled storms, a pandemic that just won't die; everywhere we turn, we are confronted with terrible tidings. Hatred and anger and violence and injustice seem to rule the day. It is no wonder, then, that every report the synod council receives from Bishop Shelley begins with concerns over the anxiety and fear that appear to be seeping into so many aspects of personal and congregational lives. How can we break this downward spiral? How do we stop being afraid? How do we stop doomscrolling?

I suggest we begin love-scrolling instead. God reminds us many times throughout scripture not to fear and we are told, indeed, that that “there is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.” (1 John 4:18) Therefore, when I am anxious or afraid, I look for love. I see love in the gentle touch of a parent wiping away a child's tears. I see it in friends bringing meals to someone in crisis. I see it in teachers bringing snacks to class to ensure no student has to learn on an empty stomach. I see it in the hands that knit and crochet and sew warm blankets, hats, and scarves for those who are unhoused in bad weather. I see it in the neighbor who mows the lawn of the elderly couple next door. I see it in a grandchild patiently explaining how to get the Zoom working for the umpteenth time. I see it in the people who regularly give blood. I see it in those risking life and limb to bring humanitarian aid to war zones. I see it in the spouse who learns to make gluten/dairy/egg free chicken and dumplings for their food sensitive partner. I see it in the great-grandparent who moves across the country for six months to help with childcare. I see it in all those who give of their time and talents to serve others. Where do you see love?

During the season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the fact that “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” (John 3:16). That makes it the perfect time to be on the lookout for that perfect love that casts out fear. After all, in the words of poet Christina Rossetti:

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

Jesus, then, is “love incarnate, love divine.” What love could be more perfect than that? May your Advent season be blessed with love-scrolling and tidings of great joy.

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

- Synod Council meet on November 18, 2023. We assisted Mission to Seafarers with the preparation of ditty bags and learned more about this synod supported ministry.
- Coaching: I finished the ELCA Segment One Basic Skills Coach Training.
- I planned and facilitated the monthly ELCA-wide Synod VP Zoom. November's main topic was best practices for synod personnel policies.
- I participated in the Spiritual Sovereignty course through the LiVE project, as well as attending a few of the weekly bible studies.

Kay Edgerton

Vice President of the NW Washington Synod

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