



LUTHER MEMORIAL
lutheran church

Quarterly Messenger 2024 Easter Edition



Photographed by Leia Smith

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

*“Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”
-Isaiah 43: 18-19 (NRSV)*



Dear Luther Memorial,

I have always loved the writings of the prophets, especially the prophet Isaiah. And, while this is a promise for the renewal of the Israelites following the Babylonian Exile, I feel the hopefulness in this verse as we begin to see the first signs of spring around us. Even as I write this, I'm feeling energized by the sunshine coming through my office window!

This reminder of God doing a new thing in our midst feels especially pertinent as our congregation discerns how we should steward the roof and our finances. While your Council has given you much to think about, and you may feel overwhelmed, I want to again say *thank you* to everyone who keeps showing up and sharing your input about how this congregation moves forward. I am constantly reminded of your wonderful faithfulness to our mission and this place! Again, I am truly honored to serve as your pastor.

As we make our way into spring, there will be more activities to do and decisions to make, but I hope to see you for our Holy Week services, including our attempt at something new for Maundy Thursday. I'm looking forward to the worship, fellowship, and education opportunities that lie in our future, and to seeing the new things that God is doing in our midst. May we continue to be open to all the ways that God is working within this congregation and the world!

Peace,

Pastor Sara Funkhouser

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FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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Dear Luther Memorial Friends in Christ,

Spring will soon be here and so will Easter! What an exciting time to see all the spring flowers bursting out in bloom! For Easter we will again be asking for donations in Memory of or in Honor of loved ones. With the donations, instead of purchasing Easter lilies to decorate the inside of our church, we will be buying colorful bedding plants to decorate the flower beds around the outside of our church.



Our big roof project is off to a good start. The March 9 Book Sale raised over \$580 to help fund our new roof! Many thanks to everyone who donated, helped and supported this fundraiser. We will be planning another Book Sale the end of April.

May each and every one of you enjoy this Easter and Spring Season!

Blessings,

Donna Smith

LMLC Council President

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Church Activities



Book Sale



Book Sale



Book Sale



Book Sale



Book Sale



Book Sale



LUTHER MEMORIAL

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

You are invited you to join us for Holy Week services. Experience the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus through song, prayer, and reflection.

Our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be held in partnership with Broadview UCC. All services held at LMLC besides the Maundy Thursday service will be Livestreamed on Luther Memorial's YouTube page.

Maundy Thursday (March 28th)

5:30 P.M. Dinner Church at LMLC

Good Friday (March 29th)

3:00 P.M. Stations of the Cross at Broadview UCC

6:30 P.M. Worship at LMLC

Easter Sunday (March 31st)

9:30 A.M. Easter Breakfast

10:30 A.M. Worship at LMLC

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

Tuesday 9a-12:30p, then @Foss 1pm-5pm (Pastor Sara Funkhouser)

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

Thursday: 9am - 1pm, then Work from Home (Pastor Sara Funkhouser)

Friday: @Foss 10a-12p, then in the office until 2p (Pastor Sara Funkhouser)

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

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Recent Worship Attendance

Sunday, 7, January 2024 - 28

Sunday, 14, January 2024 - 26

Sunday, 21, January 2024 - 33

Sunday, 4, February 2024 - 31

Sunday, 11, February 2024 - 25

Sunday, 25, February 2024 - 28

Sunday, 3, March 2024 - 33

Sunday, 10, March 2024 - 31

**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
Ministry Growth Fund as of
January 31 2024**

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2024	\$ 760,530.85
 Addition	0.00
 Withdrawals	0.00
 Change in market value	<u>2,024.00</u>
Ending Balance as of January 31 2024	<u><u>\$ 762,554.85</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 income distributions for 2024. Distributions are paid quarterly and represent 4.0% of the average market value of the 5 previous year ends.

A \$45,000 total withdrawal was included in the 2024 Budget approved at the annual meeting. A \$15,000 withdrawal was made in February for operations and drainage servicing.

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

The Free Little Pantry continues to be a welcomed source of extra food items for our LMLC neighbors. Thanks to the many hands who help including the pantry restocking volunteers; Keiko, Marilyn, Vicki, Mary, Diane and Beverly. A special shout-out to Bob and Marilyn Enloe for providing shelving to better organize the food supplies donated by church attendees, neighbors, and school food drives. All is very much appreciated.

Thank you!

Respectfully submitted by
Mary Hinderliter
Diane Chapman

Property Committee Report

- First big issue is the roof repair/replacement process is well underway. After an informational power point and Q&A we will soon have a vote from the congregation addressing the direction we will be taking.
- The 2 storm drains in the parking lot have been cleaned and new filters installed. They will be inspected routinely to keep our run off water clean.
- The Church shed on the adjacent property to Compass Broadview owned by Foss is being sold and the shed and its contents will need to be removed by the end of the month.
- A shelf has been built above the indoor mail cubbies for the new AED unit and Narcan medication and a first aid kit added to the first aid supply cupboard below the mail cubbies.
- Lightbulbs in the Sanctuary have been replaced with LED bulbs.
- Two new fire extinguishers have been mounted in the Sanctuary and the pantry storage room.
- The lightbulb outside the Greenwood entrance door has been replaced.
- A big monthly calendar has been placed on the bulletin board outside the office to display events happening in the building and will be updated each month.
- A Spring outdoor work party will be planned to spruce up the garden beds and plant the bedding plants from Easter Sunday.

Your Property Committee, Laurie, and Marilyn

March 2024



From the Bishop:

During the cold snap in January, I realized that the hummingbird food had frozen again. I went outside to replace it and noticed a hummingbird just sitting, seemingly frozen, perched on one of the little prongs of the feeder. Now, usually the hummingbirds I feed are fierce. They swirl around my head demanding new syrup and for me to move out of their way. They exert a force that, if bigger, would be scary. But this one did nothing as I moved closer.

I stood there. Not sure what to do. Do I shoo it away? Do I simply hope it moves when I reach out? Do I come back later hoping this bird is still alive?

As in most things we do these days, I decided to research online. According to the website *Science*, hummingbirds may appear “frozen” on a feeder, but they're using torpor to conserve energy. This article urges one to not disturb them as this is a natural behavior and allows them to save their energy.

With this, I decided to wait until the hummingbird flew off before replacing the feeder with fresh syrup (which happened about a half hour later).

So why tell you this small story of hummingbirds and me? I think there is some overlap between energy and torpor and what this all might mean for us as church together.

While not a perfect analogy, sometimes we can act like hummingbirds swirling and swooping, using lots of energy to do things. Sometimes we think that if we aren't doing activities, or if other people aren't doing activities, then we are failing as a church. It reminds me of a pastor saying to me at an event for Rostered Ministers, “Bishop, I feel that I have to attend everything that is planned. But, may I ask, is everything planned necessary?”

Perhaps we use energy up when it is not necessary.

Perhaps, like the hummingbird, we also need a time of torpor. Perhaps we need a “time out” time or a reflection time or a meditative time or just a time to inhale and exhale without worrying about the next event or program or activity. As theologian Richard Rohr puts it when describing centering prayer, “Prayer is simply sitting in silence, open to God's love and your love for God. This prayer is beyond thoughts, emotions, or sensations.”

Dear Beloveds in Christ, Lent is here. As we plan and attend the meaningful worship and fellowship that we all love during the season of Lent, I pray that in worship and in other ways you can find the space and openness to embrace the wonder of the Spirit.

For we can learn from hummingbirds – not that we are to eat one and a half to three times our body weight every day like a hummingbird – but instead, we are called to have a flow between busyness and stillness, action and reflection, hustling and torpor, acts and prayer.

I pray that as we follow Jesus, as we live in Jesus' love, as we contemplate his words and actions, we may do the same.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. Mark 1:35



From the VEEP

Borders, boundaries, and belonging. As long as there have been humans, we have grouped ourselves together – in families, tribes, cities, states, nations. We have set boundaries and borders around these groups. Each group sets rules for what constitutes membership and what rights, privileges, and responsibilities come with citizenship. Some groups are expansive and offer membership to just about anyone. Others are more selective and have stringent rules governing who gets to belong and who doesn't. These rules and regulations change and shift over time, as do the borders they enforce.

I am an American citizen and I am a Canadian citizen. Each of these citizenships comes with different rights and responsibilities, and each has different rules that govern them. When I was born (over 60 years ago), I was born an American citizen because I was born in the United States. It didn't matter that one of my parents was Canadian; the United States counts all those born within its borders as citizens. At that time, Canada did not recognize children born to citizens abroad, so I only had single citizenship, which was probably for the best. The U.S. does not look too kindly on dual citizenship as it can lead to split allegiances – what if my two countries went to war? My mother had to renounce her Canadian citizenship when she became a naturalized U.S. citizen sometime after my birth.

These restrictions have eased somewhat, now, which is a good thing for me because in 2009, Canada changed its laws and decided to claim those of us who had been born to Canadian citizens outside the borders of Canada. I didn't have to do anything to earn that citizenship status. On April 17, 2009, I simply woke up Canadian. As far as the Canadian government was concerned, I was now part of the family. My mother's motherland had claimed me. There were actions I had to take to obtain the documents necessary for everyone *else* to recognize my new status, but whether documented or not, I was Canadian.

In the bible (according to a search of Bible Gateway), the term "border" appears 19 times in its context of lands – all in either the Old Testament or the Apocrypha. Similarly, all the instances of the term "boundary" occur in the Old Testament. The New Testament, conversely doesn't talk much about borders and boundaries. Instead, it shares the good news of a God who breaks down barriers and breaks through borders. In Jesus, God breaks down even the divisions between life and death, heaven and earth, divine and mortal. The Kingdom of God is come near! And yet, we humans continue to focus on borders and erect walls and make rules to define who is in and who is out. Too often, we are like the governments who disdain multiple citizenships - forsaking God's expansive both/and for the limitations of either/or. We think we can put borders around even who gets to be part of the Kingdom of God.

The ELCA has been concerned for some time about decreasing membership. Some congregations are closing, some are merging, some are seeking new ways of doing church to try to reverse this trend. Maybe it is time to rethink how we as ELCA congregations define membership. What rights and responsibilities do members have? Who has a voice? Who has a vote? What pledges of allegiance do we require? What barriers are there in our governing documents that prevent people from participating fully in the life of the church? How can we be more expansive in how we define citizenship in our congregations? Must people commit to only one faith community? If they worship, profess their faith, and contribute materially to the mission of the congregation, must they still pledge allegiance to our congregation alone and renounce membership in all other communities of faith?

I'd rather be like Canada and reach out and claim those who may not have been eligible in the past. Rather than wait for people to apply for membership, could we just confer citizenship unilaterally? After all, isn't that what God has done for all of us - reached out and claimed us? We are citizens in the kingdom through God's great grace. Who are we to re-erect the boundaries God has torn asunder?

Kay Edgerton

Vice President of the NW Washington Synod

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