



LUTHER MEMORIAL
lutheran church

Quarterly Messenger 2025 Summer Edition



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

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
13047 Greenwood Ave. N
Seattle, WA 98133
206-364-2510

Church Activities



Easter Service





Easter Breakfast



Good Friday Prayers



Bishop Election Report at Synod Assembly

FROM PASTOR SARA FUNKHOUSER

“When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.”

Luke 24: 30-31 (NRSV)



The above verses come from the “Road to Emmaus” story that follows Jesus’ Resurrection. Luke tells about two disciples walking the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus discussing the events of the day- after the women have gone and found the tomb empty, and after others have gone to verify it. The two disciples are joined in their journey by Jesus, but he keeps them from recognizing him. Instead, Jesus asks them questions about what happened and why. At one point, the men are amazed that this man has heard nothing about what happened, asking, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” (Luke 24: 18b) Jesus continues walking this road with them and teaching them about the Scriptures, until they arrive at Emmaus, where they invite him to stay with them for the evening. It was at the dinner table that night, in the breaking of the bread, when the disciples realized who had been in their midst this entire time.

As we prepare to celebrate Pentecost on June 8th, we are reminded of the promise from this past Sunday’s Gospel reading: “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.” (John 14: 26) When we hear this in tandem with the Road to Emmaus story, it highlights the ways in which God’s love in Christ is still active in the world through the Holy Spirit. It is often difficult for us to recognize this love, especially when it doesn’t present itself in the way that we expect or we get so caught up in everything else happening in the world that we no longer pay attention. It invites us to see the way that Christ is still embodied in our world and to see Christ in those around us, as our discipleship calls us to love God and love the world.

We often joke that Memorial Day marks the time of year when summer begins in Seattle, which means that church attendance will drop until September. I know that many of you will be elsewhere this summer, spending time with friends and family, and enjoying the beautiful landscapes that surround us. I do not fault you for that one bit; we have to enjoy the nice weather while we have it! But, whether you will be in worship on Sundays or off on some adventure, I invite you to spend a few extra minutes each day paying attention to the world around you. We never know when a conversation or a fleeting moment of wonder will become an opportunity to see God in our world!

Peace,

Pastor Sara Funkhouser

206-364-2510

pastorsara@luthermemoralseattle.com

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Luther Memorial Friends in Christ,

Summer is just around the corner! It is hard to believe that we are planning summer vacations and summer activities! And also this time of the year we are thinking about graduation! We have two young people in our congregation that will be graduating in a few weeks from High School, Joshua Lingappaiah and Lillian Long. We wish them the very best in all their future endeavors and may the Lord be with them.



As the busy activities slow down within the next three months, we asked that you continue to be a part of our summer worship each week.

As you plan summer activities and travels, may you be safe and enjoy yourself!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time!

Peace!

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

Tuesday 9:00am – 2:30pm (Pastor Sara Funkhouser)

Wednesday: 9:00am – 2:00pm (Pastor Sara Funkhouser)

Thursday: 9:30am – 3:00pm (Pastor Sara Funkhouser)

Friday: 9:00am – 2:00pm (Pastor Sara Funkhouser)

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

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Recent Worship Attendance

Sunday, 6, April 2025 - 31

Sunday, 13, April 2025 - 27

Good Friday 18, April 2025 - 17

Sunday, 20, April 2025 - 62

Sunday, 27, April 2025 - 22

Sunday, 4, May 2025 - 33

Sunday, 11, May 2025 - 26

Sunday, 18, May 2025 - 22

Sunday, 25, May 2025 - 25

Roof Fund as of April 30 2025

Received Jan. 1 2024 - April 30 2025	20785.69
Giving in Kind	<u>296.09</u>
	<u>21081.78</u>
Paid from Roofing Fund to roofing company	8447.09
Giving in Kind utilized	<u>296.09</u>
	<u>8743.18</u>
Balance in BECU	<u><u>12338.60</u></u>

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church Financial Results Through April 30 2025

Revenue	2025 Actual	2025 Budget
Pledges	\$ 38,912.54	\$ 38,294.98
Unpledged Offerings	179.00	200.00
Foss Pastor Share	2,500.00	0.00
Room Use	1,125.00	1,775.00
Gifts and Income Other than Offerings	839.20	166.68
Unrestricted Revenue	<u>\$ 43,555.74</u>	<u>\$ 40,436.66</u>
Feeding Ministry (A)	1,513.30	833.32
Restricted Revenue	<u>\$ 1,513.30</u>	<u>\$ 833.32</u>
Transfer from Ministry Growth Fund	0.00	0.00
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 45,069.04</u>	<u>\$ 41,269.98</u>
Expenses	Actual	Budget
Staff Compensation (Pastor, Office Admin, Musician, Bookkeeper, Custodian)	\$ 43,100.36	\$ 47,459.96
Administrative	3,692.25	4,216.68
Property	12,162.73	9,574.04
Worship & Music	800.14	822.00
Fellowship	94.83	250.00
Synod	2,190.00	3,020.00
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 62,040.31</u>	<u>\$ 65,342.68</u>
Outreach	110.36	500.00
Food Ministry (A)	359.49	2,666.68
Designated Funds Expenses	<u>\$ 469.85</u>	<u>\$ 3,166.68</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 62,510.16</u>	<u>\$ 68,509.36</u>
Operating Surplus/(Loss)	<u>\$ (17,441.12)</u>	<u>\$ (27,239.38)</u>
Withdrawal from Ministry Growth Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00
Net Surplus/(Loss)	<u>\$ (7,441.12)</u>	<u>\$ (17,239.38)</u>

(A) - Does not include \$753.83 of Giving in Kind

**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
Ministry Growth Fund as of
April 30 2025**

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2025	\$ 703,439.87
Addition	6,602.50
Withdrawals	(10,000.00)
Change in market value	<u>(2,920.35)</u>
Ending Balance as of April 30 2025	<u><u>\$ 697,122.02</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 2025. Distributions are paid quarterly and represent 4.0% of the average market value of the 5 previous year ends.

A \$40,000 total withdrawal is included in the 2025 Budget approved at the annual meeting. A \$10,000 withdrawal was made in February.

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.

Little Free Food Pantry

Summer is almost here and we look forward to warmer weather and outside activities. Unfortunately, hunger doesn't take a break. Thank you for your continued support for the little pantry ministry. Right now the pantry is running low on protein items, so if you are shopping and can pick up a can of chicken or chili that would help a lot.

Mary Hinderliter and Diane Chapman

Pantry Coordinators

Lutheran World Relief Spring Appeal 2025

Luther Memorial was able to send 25 Personal Care Kits and 12 Baby Care Kits for a total of 86 pounds for this spring's appeal. Thank you to all of you who contributed items to make this happen.

Diane Chapman

Coordinator

Property and Maintenance report from Laurie and Marilyn

Cans and other debris has been removed from the storm drains, the yellow stripe was repainted on the sidewalk where the garbage, yard waste and recycle bins are emptied and graffiti removed from the bench outside the west Narthex windows. A lot of weeding has been done and the flower plants from Easter were planted outside. The weeds on the east side along the stained glass windows have been removed and bark is placed to help with weed control. An electric company has been out to give an estimate on the big church sign lighting, the 3 up lights shining on the Luther Memorial Church sign in front by the tree and the Narthex lights replaced with LED bulbs or all new lighting. The estimate was received and presented to Council and it has been determined to get at least one more estimate before any decisions are made on the scope of work or who will be hired for the job. A request was put into the city department responsible to remove the pile of dirt and concrete debris left over from the sidewalk project. Those tasks are on their punch list. The dishwasher was cleaned out and made operable again. The refrigerator was cleaned out and organized. An email was made to the department that has been working on the 132nd street planting project and a response came back that it is again under consideration about when and if any plantings will be done.

June 2025



HIGHLIGHTS of the 2025 NW Washington Synod Assembly

The 2025 NW Washington Synod Assembly was held May 16-17 at the Edward D. Hansen Conference Center in Everett. Our theme of **WOVEN INTO GOD'S STORY**, based on Gal. 3:26-29, was apparent throughout the agenda and the assembly hall. Beautiful table runners created by artisans from around our synod adorned our tables. Our worship, with the familiar fibers of our liturgy – gathering, word, meal, and sending, unfolded across the entire assembly, reminding us that every moment we share is sacred.

Thank you to all in attendance for helping to co-create a holy space for the work of our synod. Below you will find highlights from our time together. (*Official minutes will be available, once approved by synod council.*)

We received reports and messages from our synod and churchwide leaders.

You will find written reports from our synod bishop, synod secretary, synod vice president, and our presiding bishop of the ELCA on the website for your review. We lifted up Vice President Kay Edgerton as this is her last in-person assembly prior to the completion of her term in 2026. We are grateful for her leadership these last 7+ years! We lifted up Rev. Joanne Engquist as she concludes her 6-year term on the ELCA Churchwide Council. We give thanks for our rostered synod staff members, Rev. Judy Brennan, Rev. Dr. David Hahn, and Rev. Andy Yee for leading opportunities for Bible study and table conversations – woven throughout the gathering.

We connected with ministry partners through videos, display tables, and presentations.

You will find written reports submitted to the synod AND video messages shared at the assembly linked on our [synod website](#). Please take time to learn more about these important partners. Thank you to those ministry partners who provided delightful door prizes drawn by local traveling Lutheran, Rick Steves. A special thank you for the generosity of our assembly sponsors: Lutheran Community Services Northwest, Portico Benefit Services, Paths to Understanding, Godly Play, and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.

We elected members to the synod council and these committees:

Synod Council: Salvador Cossio, Rev. Sara Funkhouser, Shane Lambing, and Cindy Shultz.

Committee on Discipline: Karen Klemetson, John Koch, Deacon Marie Preftes Arenz, and Rev. Pam Russell.

Consultation Committee: Rev. Mary Lindberg, Rev. John O'Neal, Jennifer Satterfield and Janet St. Clair.

We held a Bishop Election

Rev. Shelley Bryan Wee was reelected for a second 6-year term on the second ballot.

Thank you to Nick Kiger, Director for ELCA Mission Support, for serving as our ELCA Churchwide Representative, chairing the bishop election process. Thank you to our two nominees for bishop: the Rev. Priscilla Paris-Austin and the Rev. Shelley Bryan Wee for their willingness to allow their names to go forward. We are blessed by the witness and words you each shared.

We passed a budget

The proposed budget (found on synod website [here](#)) was passed as amended. Amendments included:

1. Distributing \$1200 from the Open Door Ministry Fund to Reconciling Works
2. Reallocating funds under Agency and Social Ministry section as follows:
 - Increase funds to Real Rent Duwamish to \$5000
 - Increase funds to Racial Equity to \$5000
 - Decrease funds to Luther Seminary and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary to \$25,200 each

Constitution Amendments

We amended our constitution – changing the name of our smaller synod groupings from *cluster* to *conference*. We offered a blessing to those who serve as deans of the conferences. Find the list of conferences and deans [here](#).

We celebrated ministry milestones of rostered ministers.

Find our celebration video here <https://vimeo.com/1086166969>

Congregation anniversaries and news:

- Celebrated these anniversaries: Celebration Lutheran Church in Anacortes – 25 years; Freeborn Lutheran Church in Stanwood – 125 years. May they continue to be a blessing in their communities!
- We voted to recognize and receive the congregation United in Grace, Monroe, WA, a union of Morning Star Lutheran Church and Monroe United Methodist Church, as a congregation of this synod.
- We celebrated that Cross and Crown Lutheran Church and Nativity Lutheran Church are now officially Living Hope Lutheran Church in Renton.

Blessing of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

We blessed the Voting Members from our synod who will be attending the ELCA Churchwide Assembly this July. These individuals were elected at our 2024 synod assembly: Dante Austin (Immanuel, Seattle), Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee (Faith, Everett), Vice President Kay Edgerton (Nativity, Renton), Rev. Ivar Hillesland (Seattle), Rev. Kristi Lambing (Fir-Conway, Mount Vernon), Seth Lambing (Pointe of Grace, Mukilteo), Rachel Pritchett (Bethany, Bainbridge Island), Kasey Shultz (Columbia City Church of Hope, Seattle), and Nisar Stephen (Grace, Des Moines). May their travels be safe, and the deliberations Spirit-led. Learn more and follow along here: www.elca.org/about/leadership/churchwide-assembly

We discussed these Resolutions & Memorials:

These can be found on the assembly webpage: www.lutheransnw.org/synod-assembly

- Resolution 1– Supporting Global Refugee’s Camino a Casa Program – passed
- Resolution 2– Affirming Northwest Washington Synod’s commitment to the Evangelical Lutheran Church In European Russia (ELCER) through the Companion Synod Program – passed as amended (amendments replaced “Team Russia” with “companion synod.”)
- Memorial 1 - To affirm transgender, nonbinary, gender expansive, two-spirit, and genderqueer people of God – passed – will be forwarded to the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly
- Memorial 2 – To authorize ELCA participation in national legal actions in support of vulnerable ELCA communities – passed – will be forwarded to the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly
- Memorial 3 - Call for an end to the occupation of Palestine and recognition of its statehood in the United Nations - passed – will be forwarded to the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

A generous offering was collected at assembly

Over \$10,300 was received – thank you for your generosity! This will be shared equally with Lutheran Disaster Response, Bishop’s Caring Fund, New & Emerging Ministries, and the synod’s LiVE Project.

THANK YOU to our amazing volunteers!

You will find a list of our faithful volunteers [here](#).

2026 Gatherings and Assembly

The voting members of this assembly will be recalled for a short online meeting on May 16, 2026. The only items of business will be: electing a synod vice president, electing a synod secretary, and passing the next year’s budget. We will also be holding a gathering (or two) in the spring of 2026. Stay tuned for more information.

If YOU are interested in lending a hand with the upcoming synod gatherings – or a future synod assembly, please reach out to Susan Berg in the synod office: 206-783-9292 or susan@lutheransnw.org.