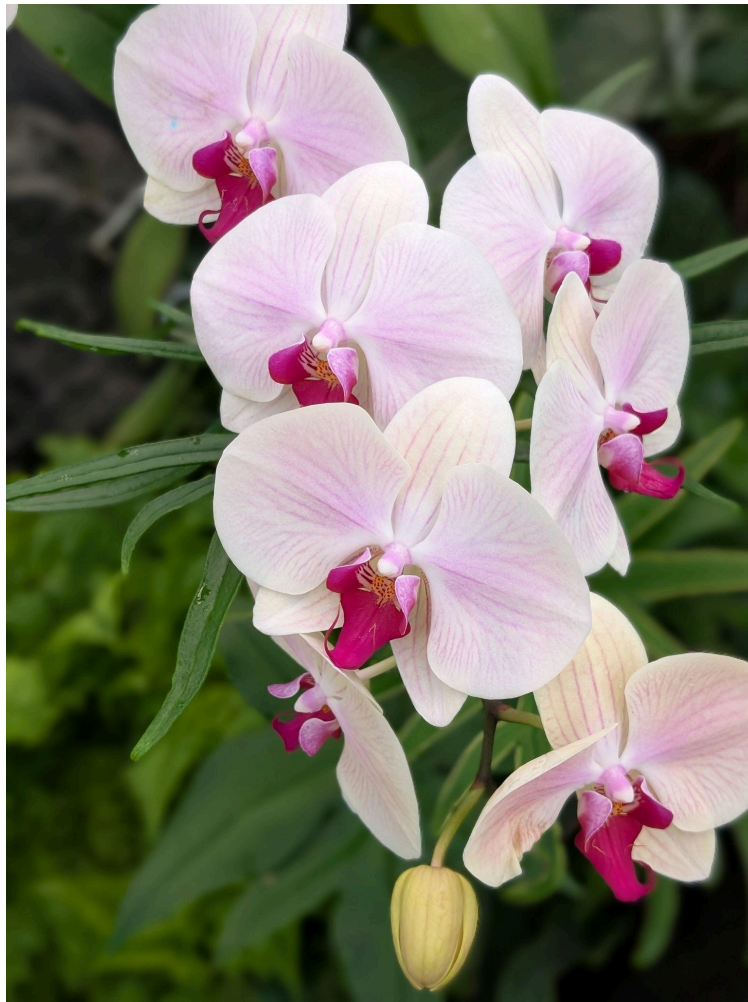




LUTHER MEMORIAL  
lutheran church

# Quarterly Messenger 2026 Summer Edition



Rev. Sara Funkhouser, Lead Pastor  
Raj Lingappiah, Council President

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church  
13047 Greenwood Ave. N  
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206-364-2510

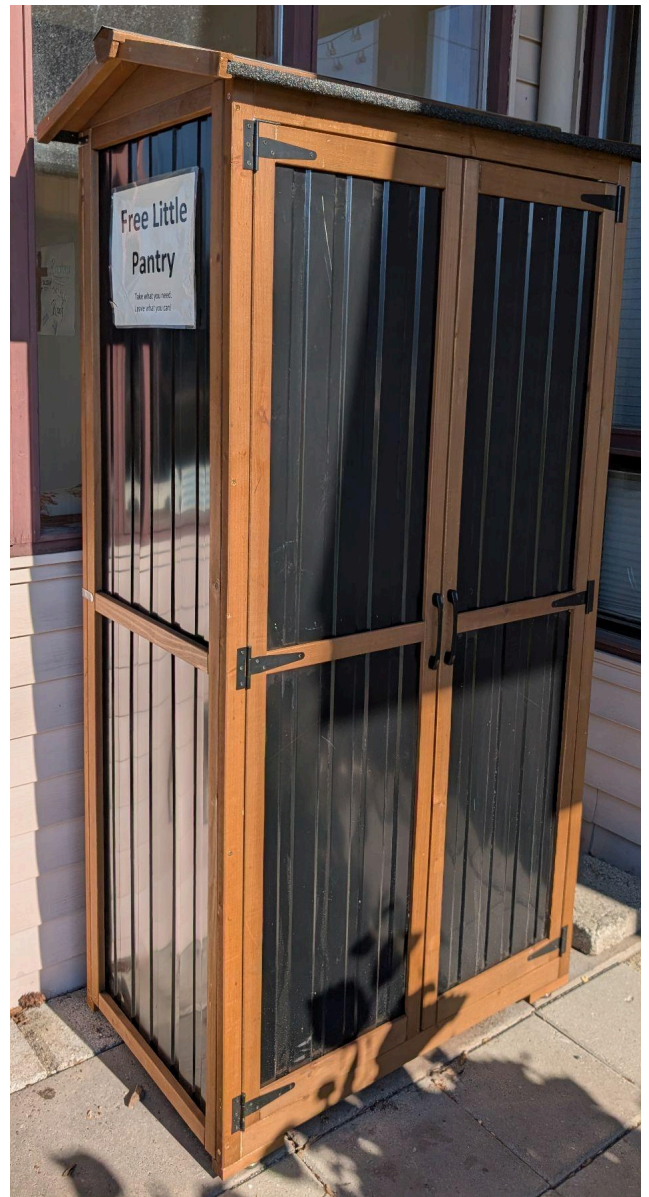
## Some Highlights From Our Spring/Early Summer!



Our gracious 75th Anniversary Planning Co-chairs, Julie and Heidi!



A generous donation for our food pantry from Whittier Elementary.



## FROM PASTOR SARA FUNKHOUSER

*“Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of the streets to live in.”*

*-Isaiah 58: 12*



The verse above is set within the context of Isaiah instructing the Israelites about what it means to actually worship God, and not just do whatever is convenient for them. Like many of the prophets, Isaiah is tasked with reminding people that God doesn't want burnt offerings or the noise of their worship if their lives are not going to be lived in such a way that shows their love for God and everything that God has created. This isn't just an abstract idea, but a tangible reality since the prophet is speaking to the Israelites who are preparing to return from exile in Babylon. As I have mentioned before, it wasn't those who were returning that experienced the removal from their homes, but it was their ancestors; however, it is the generations Isaiah is speaking to who bear the impacts of their ancestors' choices. There will be many challenges for them as they return to a land that was still occupied by the Israelites who were not exiled, and they have to navigate a way forward together.

Our society today knows much about division and attempting to figure out what it means to live together in community with others who have similar identities but different ideas about what that faithfulness should look like, just as the church has been wrestling with throughout the previous centuries. It may feel daunting, and even more challenging for us today, but it is nothing that we haven't seen before in history. I chose the promise from this chapter of Isaiah, but I encourage you to look at Isaiah 58: 1-12 to see the larger context in which Isaiah is making this promise on behalf of God. Largely, Isaiah is declaring what will come about when people care for one another and tend to their needs; when the hungry are fed, the naked are clothed, the people experiencing homelessness are welcomed into shelter. These promises of communal restoration will happen when we see each other as a part of a larger community instead of individuals existing together.

One of the things that I loved about this congregation when I interviewed was your mission statement: **Actively Sharing Christ's Love in Community**. What I loved even more was that this statement is genuinely a central value of this congregation and not just some words to make us feel better about ourselves. And, as this month marks the beginning of my 5th year as your pastor, I am so deeply amazed at the ways that we have lived this out. I look out my window and I see the community garden plots bursting with new life. I hear the children's laughter as they ride their bikes around the parking lot and say, "hey, I know you!" I watch the calendar fill up with different community groups almost every day, from the celebration of life milestones to music rehearsals to support in recovery. I see our food-insecure neighbors being fed on a daily basis.

So often, people in the church emphasize attendance and offering numbers. While it obviously matters that we have people in worship and that we have the funds needed to pay staff and keep the lights on, church is about so much more than just those statistics. Church is what happens when we show up for one another, walking alongside each other throughout all that life brings our way. It is about actively sharing Christ's love in community, whether that be through the preaching of the Good News on Sunday morning or a smile and popsicle on a warm summer day when school lets out for the summer. As our summer plans keep us close to home or take us far away in our travels, may we continue to share the love of Christ with those around us in word and deed, as that is how we transform our communities for the better, one interaction at a time.

Peace,

Pastor Sara Funkhouser

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

## FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Luther Memorial Friends in Christ,

Summer is almost here as we are enjoying our long hours of daylight!

Over the summer, your council and different church committees will continue to organize activities and to work on making improvements to our church and community.



As you plan your summer vacations, we ask that you continue to join us in our worship services each week as you are able, whether in-person or online.

Have an enjoyable and safe summer!

Peace,

Raj Lingappaiah

LMLC Council President

Cell: (206) 683-6311

E-mail: [council@luthermemoralseattle.com](mailto:council@luthermemoralseattle.com)

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### In-Person & YouTube Live Stream Worship Sunday @ 10:30am

For live stream events: <https://www.youtube.com/@luthermemoriallutheranchur8764/streams>. You will see a list of scheduled (marked "UPCOMING") and past events. 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 you to watch. We suggest you subscribe to our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@luthermemoriallutheranchur8764>, then click on the bell icon to turn on the notifications, it will send you email notifications for upcoming events.

\*We apologize for the occasional technical difficulties, but we do our best to have each service livestreamed.

## OFFICE HOURS

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

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

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

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

**Monday - Friday:** 8:00am – 12:00pm (Jian Zhang)

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

### Recent Worship Attendance

Sunday, 3, May 2026 - 41

Sunday, 10, May 2026 - 48

Sunday, 17, May 2026 - 36

Sunday, 24, May 2026 - 28

Sunday, 31, May 2026 - 44

Sunday, 7, June 2026 - 38

Sunday, 14, June 2026 - 45

## Feeding Ministry

Balance January 1 2026	4104.84
Donations	
Cash	1170.00
In kind (Where known)	1170.52
Expenses (including 'in kind' goods)	<u>-2890.23</u>
Balance May 31 2026	<u>3555.13</u>

## Roof Fund

Received Jan 1 2024 – May 31 2026	27185.69
Giving In Kind	<u>296.09</u>
	<u>27481.78</u>
Paid from Roof Fund direct to roofing company	-8447.09
Repayment to MGF (A)	-12000.00
Giving In Kind utilized	<u>-296.09</u>
	<u>-20743.18</u>
Balance in BECU (for MGF reimbursement)	<u>6738.60</u>

(A) – Rather than actually transferring repayment of \$12,000 to MGF and, at the same time, requesting \$12,000 be transferred from MGF to LMLC as the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter withdrawal, the same result was accomplished by a journal voucher entry. No money actually moved.

MGF Account	12000.00	
LMLC BECU Account (Roof Fund)		12000.00
Repayment to LMLC's MGF account for funds withdrawn for roof repair.		
LMLC BECU Account	12000.00	
MGF Account		12000.00
Quarterly withdrawal of funds		

**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church  
Ministry Growth Fund as of  
May 31 2026**

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2025	\$ 868,071.17
Addition from distributions	7,537.20
Withdrawals	(22,000.00)
Change in market value	55336.65
Ending Balance as of May 31 2026	<u>\$ 908,945.02</u>

Proceeds from the sale of Luther Memorial's parking area are invested in the above ELCA sponsored fund. The August 31 2025 UCC gift of \$75,000 was added to the Fund to provide continuing support for areas of common interest. The Fund is administered by 2 outside financial firms.

'Additions from distributions' are income distributions for 2026. Distributions are paid quarterly and represent 4.0% of the average market value of the 5 previous year ends.

A \$48,000 total withdrawal was included in the 2026 Budget approved at the Annual Meeting. \$22,000 in withdrawals have been made against the Budget.

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.

## Age to Age Initiative:

We are excited to share that Luther Memorial has been accepted into Cohort 3 with the Age to Age Initiative through Capital University in Columbus, Ohio! This program is focused on a Lilly Endowment Initiative: *Nurturing Children through Worship and Prayer*. The focus of Cohort 3 will be innovating ministry with neurodivergent children and children living with disabilities. Pastor Sara will be gone June 22nd-25th for the kickoff of this cohort!

As a part of this program, we will have a team within the congregation working together with a Coach, and connecting with other congregations in our cohort, to listen to the needs of the community and implement an experiment within our congregation. Thanks to the Lilly grant, it will not cost us anything to participate in this program, and we will be receiving a \$1000 grant to cover the cost of conducting our experiment. We are still learning more about everything that will go into this, but we are excited to be included as we focus on creating an even more welcoming community! If you are interested in learning more, or being a part of the congregational team that meets monthly to plan and run the experiment, please contact Pastor Sara.

For more information, you can also visit their website: <https://www.agetooage.capital/home>

## Lutheran World Relief

This year for the spring appeal we were able to send 4 Quilts, 15 health kits and 12 Baby Care kits. Thank you to everyone that helped put everything together.

## Little Free Food Pantry

The Luther Memorial Free Little Panty continues to be a much needed food resource for our community. We just put out our new cabinet, which we hope will better serve those who are coming to receive food. Thank you for your continued support in both money gifts and food contributions! As we head into summer, you will find some suggestions below of items that we regularly run out of, but anything you donate is much appreciated.

- Tinned meat:
  - Tuna
  - Spam
  - Sardines
  - Chicken
- Shelf stable milk
- Ramen Noodles
- Bread
- Bagels
- English Muffins

Mary Hinderliter  
Diane Chapman  
Co Chairs

## **Property and Maintenance:**

A big thank you to Mark, Christine, Pastor Sara and Emily for moving chairs and setting up the Sanctuary for Easter. Thanks to Bill for stabilizing the flower cross and to those who filled it so beautifully. Applause to Bill for making all the pancakes and to those who bought food, set up, served and cleaned up Easter breakfast.

Early April we had a yard clean up and planting event with mowing, weeding and planting the Easter flowers. Thanks to Lynne, Leia, Linda and Laurie for the work done and anyone else we missed.

The furnace valve was switched to the summer mode, and we are exploring ways of keeping the Sanctuary a bit cooler during the summer months.

A task list was made by Marilyn and Laurie and presented to Council to give a heads up of things needing to be accomplished in the coming months.

The candle sconce wicks on the rock wall were all replaced with new ones by Mark C. and Laurie. Thank you Mark for mostly taking over the job of refilling them with oil on a regular basis.

Bill did a big yard clean up in the SE corner of the property. More wood chips were placed under the stained glass wall on the east side. The raised beds not being used have been weeded and garden soil added to the beds that needed more.

Marilyn and Laurie vacuumed and cleaned out the 3 heat pumps and will schedule James Colver (whose company put in the new furnace and heat pumps) to come out and professionally clean them and do a furnace maintenance check.

Bill assembled the new pantry cupboard and installed additional L brackets bought by Marilyn for extra shelf stability.

Thank you to Carolyn for her continued diligence in keeping Celebration Hall clean, welcoming, and restocked.

Plans are still in the works with Karen H. and Gordon for replacing the stair railings by the parking lot with a metal railing. Gordon will be talking to a company he has worked with before regarding the stair railing. The company has grown, and he will need to find out if they will still do a specialized job.

Marilyn cleared out the entrance to the parking lot and it looks great!

Also, Bill, with help from Mark, placed the new pantry outside and put the old one in the former nursery area for additional pantry storage.

Laurie Meade  
Marilyn Enloe  
Property Committee Members

## **Memorial Garden:**

The Memorial Garden Committee met at the end of May, and they are discussing plans for the new Memorial Garden to go at the South end of our parking lot, in what is currently the area between the fence and the parking lot which is being overrun by weeds. More information will be coming about that, as they continue to work through the logistics of both the landscaping project and a policy for the burial of ashes.



## From the Bishop:

July / August 2026

On July 18, 1976 Pastor Nancy Winder was ordained into Word and Sacrament ministry. She was the first woman ordained in what was then the North Pacific District and the fourteenth woman ordained in the American Lutheran Church.

But Nancy and those thirteen women were not the first. We remember all the women who came before them. In scripture we remember Mary, the mother of Jesus, Elizabeth, Mary and Martha, Mary Magdalene, Phoebe, Priscilla, Junea, Lydia, and all the unnamed women including the Samaritan woman at the well who ran to proclaim what she had seen and heard, becoming the first to declare Jesus as Lord.

Along with these women in scripture, we also remember the countless women in these last 2000 years – Hildegard, Katie Luther, Argula von Grumbach, Maria Stewart, Phoebe Palmer, Catherine Booth, Margaret Wold, and so many others who were called by the Holy Spirit to preach, teach, proclaim, lead, and serve. We give thanks for the myriad of gifts that God has poured out through women for the sake of the church and the life of the world.

I am so thankful for the many women in our lives who passed on their faith to us. The women who taught Sunday School, prepared the altar, made meals, visited those who were sick, and marched against injustice. The women theologians, mystics, and writers. The women who, in countless ways, proclaimed through word and deed the good news of Jesus.

Thank you to our sisters in Christ. Thank you for the ways you have lived out your faith in every vocation. Thank you to the women who have gone before us, to the women serving today, and to the women who continue to say yes to God's call – including those called into ordained ministry.

I wonder, do you remember the first time you heard a woman preach? The first time you heard an alto or soprano voice chanting the liturgy or saying the words of institution? I remember. I was twenty years old. Seeing and hearing someone who looked like me, who had a body like mine, made the gospel come alive in a way I hadn't experienced before. Truly, it changed my life.

This is why I grieve what is happening to some of our sisters in other denominations. In recent weeks, the Southern Baptist Convention voted at its annual assembly to further restrict women from teaching, preaching, and pastoral leadership. This means women ordained ten or twenty or fifty years ago may now find their callings denied by the very churches they have faithfully served. So many women – chosen, loved, called, sent – women with fire in their bellies to preach the gospel may no longer do so. Not by God, but by their denomination. Their silencing is not only a tragedy for them; it is a tragedy for the whole Church.

So today there is an urgency to remember, celebrate, and publicly proclaim, that women are called by God. Just as the Spirit came to Mary, who sang of the mighty brought down from their thrones, just as the Spirit sent Mary Magdalene to proclaim resurrection to the apostles, just as Lydia helped birth a community of believers, the Spirit has called and continues to call women in every age.

So, in joy, thankfulness, and celebration, let us give thanks for the women of the past, present, and future who continue to proclaim, teach, lead, and serve. For, as we read in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, *"Since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart ... For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord."*

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



## FINAL Word from VEEP Kay:

The Lord God has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word. (Isaiah 50:4)

*MANY THANKS to Kay for sharing her  
insights and stories these last 8 years – she  
& her words have been a wonderful gift!*

I am a word person. I have always had an appreciation for the power of prose, the beauty of poetry, and the wisdom of *the Word*. Both of my degrees are in English and I spent thirty-seven years as a Language Arts teacher. God gave me the tongue of a teacher so I could sustain the weary with a word. So, early in my first term as synod vice president, when I was asked if I wanted to write a monthly article for “The Spirit,” I happily agreed.

At first, my hope was to use the space to share more information about the role of the synod council. I knew from personal experience that the average “person in the pew” didn’t really know much about the other two expressions of the church. Therefore, the first few submissions were heavy in language from our governing documents about the responsibilities of the vice president and the rest of the council. I shared about our meetings and what I and the other council members had been up to in the month. These were informational, but not exactly “sustaining the weary” words.

As time went on, circumstances changed. We entered into an unprecedented global pandemic that upended so much of what we believed about what community and church were. We learned new ways of being neighbors at appropriately social distance and new ways of doing and being church. As synod leadership scrambled to support and assist our congregations, it became apparent that weariness was a definite challenge. My articles began to focus on scripture and a layperson’s understanding of what God was doing in the world. Every day when I took my “I just need to get out of this darn house” walk, I prayed for the words to sustain the weary. I hope those articles were uplifting and strengthening in very troubling times.

Eventually, we emerged from the pandemic shutdown, but I continued to use the space to reflect on scripture. I’m not a deacon nor a pastor. I’m not a trained theologian. My ponderings are those of a layperson. I hoped that the things I was curious about or the little epiphanies I had would also resonate with others. Interestingly, although the bishop and I never discussed what we would be writing about, our articles almost always seemed like we’d coordinated them. It seems that “The Spirit” is truly Spirit-inspired.

In this final article, I want to share what an honor it has been to serve as your synod vice president over the past eight years. As tough as leading during the pandemic and the current political turmoil has been, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with so many wonderful people, not only throughout the synod, but the entire ELCA. I have had the joy of representing the synod at call meetings and of attending ordinations and installations of rostered ministers. I have been an active participant and leader in the Association of Synod Vice Presidents and I have represented the synod at three Churchwide Assemblies. Mostly, though, I have worked with the bishop, our amazing synod staff, and all the faithful and wise members of synod council to act on behalf of all the individuals, congregations, worshipping communities, and outreach ministries striving to be God’s presence here in the NWWA Synod.

Thank you to all who have supported me these past eight years. I commend to you our new Vice President, Cindy Shultz, whose term begins August 1. I know she will be a great partner in this work. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as vice president.

Blessings and peace to you all!

Kay Edgerton, Vice President of the NW Washington Synod | [veep@lutheransnw.org](mailto:veep@lutheransnw.org)