



LUTHER MEMORIAL  
lutheran church

## Quarterly Messenger 2026 Fall Edition



Rev. Sara Funkhouser, Pastor  
Raj Lingappiah, Council President

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church  
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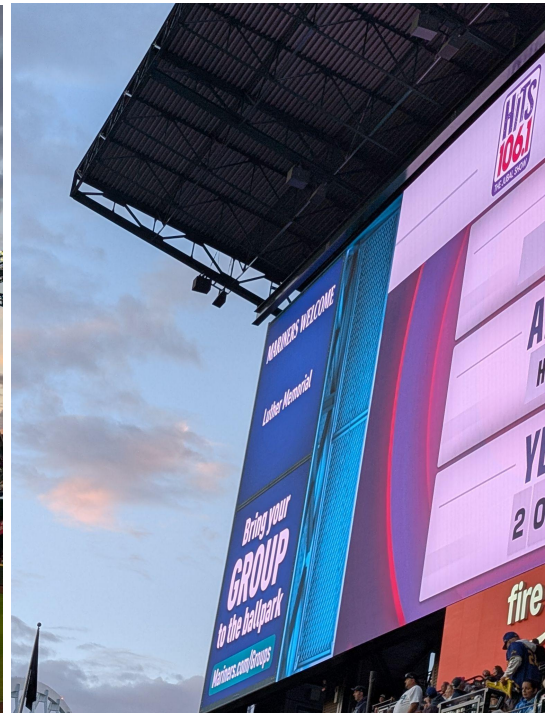
## Some Highlights From Summer!



Future concussion prevention from Bill & Laurie



Pastor Sara thought she went on vacation...featuring the perfect set of trees for her at Itasca State Park and the new dock at Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center, which we helped donate money towards



Take Us Out to the Ballgame!

## FROM PASTOR SARA FUNKHOUSER

*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..."*

*-Ecclesiastes 3:1*

In my copy of the Peoples' Bible, Madeline McClenney-Sadler writes in the preface to Ecclesiastes:

The author of Ecclesiastes is coping with a reality that most human beings either face directly or try to avoid: the reality and imminence of one's own death.... At some point during an encounter with death, as in the book of Ecclesiastes, most believers struggle with the meaning of life. At those times, Ecclesiastes may be a source of comfort. Well-wishers during rough times tend to sugarcoat the gravity of life, but the author of Ecclesiastes allows the reader to accept the bitter pill of life for what it is—bitter.



Now, you may be wondering why I am beginning this quarterly newsletter with such a sad tone. That wasn't my intent when this verse nudged me as the one to dwell on for this Message. After all, I was reflecting back on this past season, both in terms of summer, but also as I begin a new decade of life, a new year of ministry, a new chapter of my adulthood in our first home, and hopefully soon pet-parenthood! Every time I reflect on these milestones, I also feel that wave of grief, reminding me of who is only able to surround me in the great cloud of witnesses for these moments in my life. I felt it extra strongly as I had three unexpected deaths in my personal life, just in the process of writing this message. And, I was thinking about how this past summer season was far busier and more chaotic than I would have preferred. Yet, every time I returned to this place with you all, even for a few hours on Sunday morning before I had to fly off again, I felt more centered, more at ease- *despite* the ever-increasing lists of tasks to do and places to be. I was reminded that even in the midst of these larger seasons, we are blessed by so many micro-seasons as well. And so many people to accompany us through these different seasons of life.

It's one of the things I love most about Ecclesiastes, and I think why I kept returning to these words. The author gives us permission to acknowledge the pain, struggle, and weariness that we experience as a part of our existence, while still seeing how they are intertwined with the promises of God's love, grace, and care and the reminder that this, too, shall pass. This isn't done in a dismissive manner, but in a way that honors the wholeness of our experience as a part of our life created by God. It isn't an either/or, but a both/and type of situation. Joy and laughter still exists, the sun still shines tomorrow (although maybe that isn't the best metaphor for Seattle in the fall), even as the pains and struggles of life feel like they are going to overwhelm us.

While we haven't hit the official start of fall yet, there are signs all around us that the seasons are changing. From the rain falling outside my window to the beginning of the school year, we are receiving the signs that, whether we are ready for it or not, a new season will begin shortly. Our Fall-Kickoff, scheduled for September 27th, marks the beginning of a new season in the life of our congregation. This season will be filled with joy, laughter, tears, sorrows, learning, growth, and so much more as we continue to expand the ways in which we are actively sharing Christ's love in community, accompanying one another through this messy, complicated, beautiful journey we call life. Thanks be to God for the ways we walk this road of faith together as we see what God is up to and calling us toward in this next season of our life together!

Peace,  
Pastor Sara Funkhouser

## FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Luther Memorial Friends in Christ,

Fall has arrived as we see leaves changing colors and days getting shorter.

We already began celebrating the start of this time of year recently with the Blessing of the Backpacks and our new liturgical holiday of the Feast of Creation.



Now, let's get ready for our Fall 2026 Kick-Off on September 27! After service that Sunday, we'll have a potluck. Council will provide the main items, and you are invited to please bring a side dish or dessert. A postcard with more information about our Fall Kick-Off should be arriving to your mailbox soon.

Please continue to look for upcoming activities in the mid-week updates and Sunday bulletins.

Enjoy Autumn!

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, 21, June 2026 - 36  
Sunday, 28, June 2026 - 40  
Sunday, 5, July 2026 - 38  
Sunday, 12, July 2026 - 38  
Sunday, 19, July 2026 - 29  
Sunday, 26, July 2026 - 30  
Sunday, 2, August 2026 - 33  
Sunday, 9, August 2026 - 49  
Sunday, 16, August 2026 - 35  
Sunday, 23, August 2026 - 29  
Sunday, 30, August 2026 - 40  
Sunday, 6, September 2026 - 31

## Feeding Ministry

|                                      |                 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Balance January 1 2026               | 4104.84         |
| Donations                            |                 |
| Cash                                 | 1340.00         |
| In kind (Where known)                | 1577.66         |
| Expenses (including 'in kind' goods) | <u>-4010.71</u> |
| Balance July 31 2026                 | <u>3011.79</u>  |

## Roof Fund

|                                               |                  |     |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------|-----|
| Received Jan 1 2024 – June 30 2026            | 27560.69         |     |
| Giving In Kind                                | 296.09           |     |
|                                               | <u>27856.78</u>  |     |
| Paid from Roof Fund direct to roofing company | -8447.09         |     |
| Repayment to MGF (A)                          | -12000.00        |     |
| Giving In Kind utilized                       | -296.09          |     |
|                                               | <u>-20743.18</u> |     |
| Balance in BECU as of July 31 2026            | <u>7113.60</u>   | (B) |

(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                                        |          |          |

(B) – for MGF reimbursement

## 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 was 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. Our team had our first meeting and first coaching session on September 1st, and we look forward to sharing more with you about this opportunity as we continue!

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

## Little Free Food Pantry

As many of you know, we feed countless neighbors every week through our Little Free Pantry. None of that would be possible without all of your donations or those of you who volunteer your time to help stock the pantry every single day. We have a dedicated team who have faithfully been serving in this capacity for years, and they are looking for a few other folks to join their team! They are specifically looking for someone who is able to take over the Tuesday morning re-stocking shift, as well as any others who would be interested in being added to the list of back-up volunteers who can fill in when our regular weekday folks are out of town or otherwise unable to make it to church and need someone else to step in for them. If you are interested in learning more or have any other questions, please talk to one of us or Pastor Sara.

Thank you again for all that you do to help our neighbors access the food they need! Thank you for your continued support in both money gifts and food contributions! As we head into fall, you will find some suggestions below of items that we regularly run out of, but anything you donate is much appreciated.

- Tinned protein: ( Tuna, Spam, Sardines, Chicken)
- Shelf stable milk
- Ramen Noodles
- Canned fruit or fruit cups
- Tortillas
- Bagels
- English Muffins
- Hygiene products: (soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, period products, etc.)

Mary Hinderliter  
Diane Chapman  
Co Chairs

## **Property and Maintenance:**

I would like to start with some thanks and appreciation for Mark C. taking over the filling of candles. I will only be doing it when Mark is away for a period of time. Also to Lynne and Leia for all their efforts to weed, prune and water the flower beds and periodically checking the rain barrels in my absence. And a big thanks to Clint for offering to fill rain barrels and pick up garbage while I'm recovering from surgery. Clint is also taking over bringing the trash bin, yard waste bins and recycling to the curb and returning the bins to their storage area.

Gordon has contacted a company about replacing the hand rails leading from the parking lot to the doors on the west side of the building. The diagram of the hand rails and the price to replace them will be included in the September council meeting. Gordon is also working on the replacement project of all 6 toilets and that proposal will also be included in the September council meeting if it's ready in time. I will be contacting James Colver whose company replaced our furnace to come out and do a service call on the furnace and to clean the 3 heat pumps. He asked for me to reach him in September as he was booked up throughout the summer.

Heidi's daughters yard service was hired and did an amazing job spreading wood chips in the garden area and also was asked to make a bid on the proposed memorial garden area.

Weeding, watering and garbage pick up continues.

The furnace valve will be switched to the cooler weather setting when James comes out to service the furnace.

Looking forward to some rain!

Laurie Meade  
Marilyn Enloe  
Property Committee Members

## **Memorial Garden:**

The Memorial Garden Committee and Council approved the commencement of work on the Memorial Garden! The landscaping crew got started this week, and we look forward to seeing the end result of their work. More information will be coming about how to include a loved ones' ashes in the Memorial Garden, as the Committee and Council continue to work through the logistics of both the landscaping project and a policy for the burial of ashes.



During the Bishop's Sabbatical we are lifting up guest writers from the synod staff.  
Thank you to Rev. Dr. David Hahn, our featured writer for September 2026



## **Called to Be Human: Introducing the LiVE Project's 2026-2027**

### *What does it mean to be human?*

Adrienne Marie Brown's *Emergent Strategy* names a principle that's been on my mind: "There is a conversation in the room that only these people at this moment can have. Find it." What is the conversation the church, at this moment, needs to be having? This year's LiVE Project theme is our answer: **Called to Be Human**. What kind of people does our world need us to show up as, in light of our life in Jesus?

Amid our challenges, disagreements, and anxieties, the Spirit is calling the church to wrestle with this question in ways that honor the dignity of being human — even as so much of our world, its economics, politics, and digital cultures, works to divide our attention and our intentions to live with and for one another.

Across four retreats and two online courses, we'll explore what it means to live fully into our humanity in light of our Christian faith, our motivations and presuppositions, our affections and desires, our freedom, our consciousness, our conscience.

A passage from *Inviting the Mystic, Supporting the Prophet*, by Katherine Dyckman and Patrick Carroll, has been sitting with us as we've built this year's programming:

*It is as if each human person constitutes a committee constantly sitting to decide life's questions and the behavior desired in a given situation. This committee has many members within, each voicing a particular slant—our fears, feelings, dreams, and hopes, our history and relationships, our member, our various subpersonalities, and our reason. Hopefully, the chairperson of that committee is reason, deeply influenced and guided by affectivity. All the voices need to be heard and listened to. Ultimately, at their best, people make choices that chart the direct and, over time, develop the person.*

That's the heart of "**Called to Be Human**." Not a call to have it all figured out, or to quiet the noisy parts of ourselves, but a call to the ongoing, sacred work of listening to every voice at the table, so that, choice by choice, we become more integrated, more whole, more truly *ourselves* in Christ.

This year's retreats and courses put in conversation various members of that inner committee: our desires, our freedom, our conscience, our imagination, our history. We'll ask what it looks like for God to be present in these, in our community conversations, and with curiosity rather than judgment. None of us chairs that committee alone; we do it in relationship, with God, with each other, and with the communities we're called to serve.

**We can't wait to gather alongside you this year, to wonder together about this timely and necessary question: who is God calling us, and not challenging us, to be?**

Peace,

Pastor David

Director of Formation and Learning | Northwest Washington Synod | [david@lutheransnw.org](mailto:david@lutheransnw.org)



Hello!

I thought I would introduce myself properly in this, my first monthly communication as your Vice President of the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. So here goes!

I am a lifelong Lutheran and lay person, born and raised (mostly) in the PNW. My dad became a Lutheran pastor when I was nine years old after he graduated from Wartburg Seminary in Iowa. High school was in Port Orchard, WA. I graduated from Pacific Lutheran University where I met my husband, Chris, son of a Lutheran pastor and Missionary to Madagascar. We moved to Los Angeles where I taught high school English and Drama, then English to non-native speakers and eventually became the Yearbook and Newspaper Advisor as well. Moving to LA also meant for the first time, finding a church home that wasn't led by a family member. We landed at a small church in Pasadena that got smaller as we journeyed through a series of church splits. We also spent a year in Madagascar, teaching English to interested Malagasy as volunteers. After starting a family, we returned to the PNW in the Tacoma area and found a church home/community at Mount Cross Lutheran Church in University Place. In 2010, we moved to Holden Village where Chris oversaw the infrastructure projects the Village undertook during Mine Remediation and I served as Program Coordinator. Our daughter, Kasey, and our son, Corey, both graduated from Holden High School. Go Goats! A seven month around the country road trip served as our transition/sabbatical and we loved visiting churches around the country – many, but not all of them, Lutheran. We landed back in the PNW in 2016 and became part of Emmaus Table, one of the synod's new and emerging ministries in the Green Lake neighborhood of Seattle. We also regularly attended Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church while the worshipping community at Emmaus Table formed. I was elected to Synod Council in 2021.

That's my personal journey. I also want you to know some of my core beliefs that will inform my work as Vice President. I believe the world is in desperate need of the Lutheran understanding of grace – that God's love is freely given to all and there is nothing we can do to earn it, or deserve it, or to be excluded from it. In order to continue to have the privilege of sharing this good news, we need to learn new ways of being church, which I believe includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Within our churches
  - More cooperation and collaboration between congregations
  - Listening to and learning from each other
  - Discerning what it is we do well and doing that – not trying to do/be everything
  - Learning what other congregations do well so we can get folks into the place that best fits their needs
  - Nurturing relationships/loving our people
- Within our wider communities
  - Working more outside of the walls of the church than inside
  - Listening to people's stories, learning their hopes and dreams, struggles and challenges
  - Nurturing relationships/loving our people

Another core belief I have is that the church has lay leaders who are as dedicated to God's work as rostered leaders. I want to use my platform as Vice President to lift up the voices of other lay folk in the synod. This monthly missive will be one of the ways I do that. This space will be:

- A place to share the "living word" – where God is working now in the world
- A place to share good news
- A place to be honest about struggles
- A place to learn
- A place to hear about things, big and small, that make a difference
- A place of joy

So, what have you got? If you have a lay folk story to tell, I want to hear it – both to inform the work of the council, and to share your story so others can be inspired by your work. Email me at [veep@lutheransnw.org](mailto:veep@lutheransnw.org). Let's talk. Really. I want to hear from you. I need a story for October's Lay of the Land in the PNW. Please reach out.

Joyfully,

Cindy Shultz  
NW WA Synod Vice President

*But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night and day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.*  
*Peter 2:9-10 The Message*