



THE MESSENGER

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEST SEATTLE
(206) 935-6530 www.flcws.org FEBRUARY 2024

FROM EPIPHANY INTO LENT

Two events dominate the church's liturgical life this month. On Sunday, February 11th, we celebrate **The Transfiguration of Our Lord**, the last Sunday in the Lutheran calendar of the season of Epiphany. On that day we will read together the account in Mark 9:2-9 of Jesus with Peter, James, and John on the mountain, where Moses and Elijah appear talking with Jesus, whose appearance is visibly changed. A cloud overshadows them, from which a voice speaks, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" (v. 7, *NRSV*) The passage concludes with Jesus charging the three apostles to, "tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead." (v. 9, *NRSV*)

Two hymns will help illuminate our observance of The Transfiguration. The Hymn of the Day, *Oh, Wondrous Type! Oh, Vision Fair!* (*LBW* 80) unfolds the events themselves, beginning:

Oh, wondrous type! Oh, vision fair
Of glory that the Church may share,
Which Christ upon the mountain shows,
Where brighter than the sun he glows!

The Recessional Hymn, *Alleluia, Song of Gladness*, reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, looks ahead in verses 3 and 4 to **Ash Wednesday**, February 14th, which begins the season of Lent, and beyond:

Alleluia cannot always be our song while here below;
Alleluia our transgressions make us for a while forgo;
For the solemn time is coming when our tears for sin shall flow.

In our hymns we pray with longing: Grant us, blessed Trinity,
At the last to keep glad Easter with the faithful saints on high;
There to you forever singing alleluia joyfully.

Join us as we worship together this month and lift our voices in faith and praise to God, remembering these great events and mysteries of the faith. May the peace of Christ abide with you all.

-Andrew J. King, Cantor

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Time after Epiphany runs from Jan. 7, 2024 through Feb. 13, 2024. When we think of having an epiphany, we think of a revelation. Likewise, the season of Epiphany emphasizes a revelation: that Jesus is both true God and true man. This season culminates with the Transfiguration of Jesus, when we remember how three of Jesus' disciples saw their Lord in divine splendor. This year Ash Wednesday is on Feb. 14th, and marks the beginning of the season of Lent.

As my term as congregation president draws to a close, I have much to be thankful for. I am grateful for the dedication and hard work of our outstanding staff, who have worked tirelessly as we have continued without a permanent pastor. Many thanks to Casey Blake, Dean Hard, Andrew King and Teri Korsmo. Dean and Andy work together to utilize the beautiful hymnody within the practice of our worship; they also contribute much to the day-to-day operations of our church, helping things to run smoothly.

I owe a debt of gratitude for pulpit supply pastors: Rev. Horacio Castillo, Rev. Doug Lindsey, Rev. Phil Nesvig; Rev. Barry Fritts, Rev. Bryon Hansen, Rev. Phil Lee and Rev. Jack Richards. God has richly blessed us by the faith and leadership of each of these pastors while we have been in the search process for a permanent pastor. Pastor Neal Snyder reaches out to me occasionally to check in, and I have appreciated the contact with him.

I am thankful for the discernment on the part of the Call Committee and the leadership of the committee chair, Matthew Kahn. After two years of searching, we have a Preferred Candidate in one of our supply pastors, Rev. Bryon Hansen. A Special Meeting of the congregation is scheduled on February 11, 2024 to vote to call Rev. Bryon Hansen as the permanent Pastor of First Lutheran Church of West Seattle. Our constitution states that voting members must be present to cast their ballots, with the exception of our home bound (shut-in) members, who have their ballots hand delivered by members of the council.

Our parsonage work is wrapping up, with future plans being explored to find a suitable tenant. Special thanks to Dale Korsmo, Steve Liang and Jeff Sagmoen for their many hours of physical labor, assessing, planning, gathering bids and being good stewards of the financial resources. Dale has also been instrumental with coordinating facilities upgrades for Tilden School, our non-profit tenant in the education wing.

I am thankful for our current council, who have served above and beyond these past two years. For outgoing members Ben Dobbeck, Cristian Clemente, Dana Kahn and Jeff Sagmoen, I appreciate your time and work ethic. For incoming council members Gina Allen and Matthew Kahn, thank you for stepping in during this season of transition. For council members that are continuing into the new term, Dale Korsmo, Carol Nelson, Mariann Petersen, Tyler Schorn, and Kathrine Young, thank you for the continuity and stability you provide. I am thankful that the following executive committee members are returning: Lorraine King as Secretary, David King

as Treasurer, and Steve Liang as he transitions from Vice President to President. Thanks for guiding me as I strived to learn the role of President.

Lastly, I am thankful to our dedicated congregation. Members have chipped in to fill in the gaps where needed, from painting parties at the parsonage, to hosting coffee hour on the first Sunday of the month and to visiting our home bound members. From our talented choir, to our ushers and to our Altar Guild, it takes many hours of volunteering to have a meaningful worship experience, using our God-given talents. Thank you to Scott and Valerie Schorn for their efforts to host, revise and update our annual fundraiser for the West Seattle Food Bank. Thanks to everyone for the generosity of your time, talents and financial gifts.

Almighty God, draw our hearts to you, guide our minds, fill our imaginations, control our wills, so that we may be wholly yours. Use us as you will, always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. (LBW p. 47 Prayer of Self-Dedication)

-Janine Douglass, President

IN REMEMBRANCE OF

At First Lutheran, we have on a number of occasions used money donated in memory of friends and relations to purchase items to remember their contributions while they were among us. Within the last few months two long time members of the church passed away, and there has been a desire to find a way to honor them.

First was Janice Lundbeck who died in Christ after a number of health difficulties. Janice had been a member for many years, raising her two children, Joey and Cindy, in the church. She was active in the Altar Guild, rang bells with the Deo Gloria Ringers, helped on the service teams at hospitality functions, and sang in the choir for many years. It is hoped that enough memorial donations will come in to purchase an item in her honor for the Altar Guild.

More recently, Martin Nygaard died in Christ, after a number of years of suffering from Parkinson's disease as well as other mobility issues. Martin was the church Librarian for many years. He and his daughter Kristen worked tirelessly to add books to the stock and to publicize the treasures that are in the Library. He was also a member of the Deo Gloria Cantores for many years, singing to the Lord in the bass section of the choir. We hope that we can raise enough money in donations to fund the purchase of some new items for the Library that will enhance and update the collection.

If you would like to help with either of these memorials, we invite you to make a financial donation to either or both of these funds in the next few months. Be sure to note on your check how the money is to be distributed. When the decision is made how the money will be used, it will be announced in the Messenger. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

-Lorraine King

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL LITURGY for Howard Storhoff will be held Saturday, February 10 at 11:00 am. A reception will follow in the parish hall.

FEBRUARY 4TH COFFEE FELLOWSHIP will feature another meet and greet with call candidate, Rev. Bryon Hansen.

CONGREGATIONAL CALL VOTE will be February 11 after the service (but well before the Superbowl) in the parish hall.

FOOD BANK COLLECTION: The West Seattle Food Bank box and all collections are in room C. Suggested Food Bank donation for February is canned goods, although any non-perishable foods, personal products, or grocery store gift cards are welcomed. Compass Housing Alliance is in need of new socks for men and women. Your much needed donations are taken to the West Seattle Food Bank, Compass Housing Alliance and Mary's Place as they come in.

HOLY EUCHARIST – Communion: Those who are baptized in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and believe are welcome to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. If you are not able to walk up to communion but would like to receive, talk to one of the ushers before the liturgy. On Sunday, February 4th, and the first Sunday of each month, multiple cup communion will be offered, in addition to intinction.

WHY COMMUNION REGISTRY? Our Constitution limits voting to members who commune at least 3 times each quarter and contribute at a given level. The Worship Registration form is an objective way the Council can document who meets the communion requirement. Thank you for your cooperation.

DEO GLORIA CANTORES: Choir rehearses on Thursdays, from 7:30 to 9:00 pm each week. If you are interested in joining the choir, please contact Dean Hard or Andrew King at the church office.

2024 FLOWER CHART: The 2024 Altar Flower Chart is posted on the hall bulletin board. Check it out – dates are still available.



PARISH PRAYERS

Remember in prayer before God those whom He has made your brothers and sisters through baptism.

Pray for members and friends of our congregation that God will bless and strengthen them in these days: Nancy Lawson, Holly Petersen, Natalie Nesvig, Eileen & Dave Nestoss, Kyra Stromberg, Peter and Dana Morrison, Paula and The Rev. Douglas Lindsay, Karen Granger, Shirley Graham, Angel Lynne, Lauri Nygaard, Connie Baker, Ernie Hopson and Caroline and Konstantin Ritter..

Pray for the shut-ins that the light of Christ may give them joy: Joan Olson, Bob & Mona Ayer, Jeannine Lingle, Robert Schorn, Lou and Lori Landino, CJ Christian, and Melanie Johnson.

Pray for Howard Storhoff and Marjorie Thuma, who died in Christ, that God will receive them into the arms of his mercy and the glorious company of the saints. Pray also for their families and all who mourn, that they may know the blessings of God's never failing love and care.

Pray for our bishops Elizabeth Eaton & Shelley Bryan Wee; our presiding ministers Philip Lee, Barry Fritts, Bryon Hansen, Douglas Lindsay, Jack Richards, Horacio Castillo, and Philip Nesvig; our choirmaster Dean Hard, our cantor Andrew King, and all who faithfully assist with worship. May they be strengthened in faith, love and the holy office to which they have been called. Pray for our church council and our call committee, that God will guide and strengthen them in these days.

Pray that God would give us hearts to find joy in service and faithful stewardship. Pray that God would work within you to become a good steward of your time, talents, and finances. Pray to strengthen our commitment to stewardship in our congregation.

Pray for the hungry, ignored, abused, unemployed, addicted, homeless, and unbelievers. Pray for the mercy of God for these people, and for all in Christ's church to see and help those who are in distress. Pray for our country and those who lead us, that our collective actions may honor God and be a blessing in the world.

Pray for people around the world who suffer from the effects of war, terrorism, natural disasters disease,, poverty, and abuse, especially the people of Ukraine, Israel, the Palestinian people, Afghanistan, Morocco, Syria, Lebanon, and all who live in fear.

Pray that God will bless you through the lives of the saints: Martin Luther, renewer of the Church (1546) Rasmus Jensen, first Lutheran pastor in North America (1620) St. Matthias, Apostle.

A Treasury of Prayers

Grant us, O God, to hear thy voice; and in what we think is thy silence, bring us to listen. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP

Faithful Stewardship

“Set apart a tithe of all the yield of your seed that is brought in yearly from the field. In the presence of the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose as a dwelling for his name.”

(Deuteronomy 14:22, 23 NRSV)

When we give to our church, we are giving thanks for the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. We are also giving thanks for our office staff, church council, faithful congregation, committed volunteers and our building.

Our tithes, physical support and prayers are what keep the doors open and a steady worship support that are the building blocks for our future.

We don't all have the same income. We don't all have the same blessings. But together we can continue to support our church (God's dwelling place) which is a true test of faith. Through our gifts and sacrifices we are bonded together in this mutual goal that without good works and faith is lifeless. If we give a little or a lot financially, or if we help clear tables after a congregational meeting once in a while or sing in the choir most weeks of the year, we are giving thanks to God using our own personal God given blessings. We have much to be thankful for.

-Cristian Clemente

CALL COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone who attended the initial meet and greet with our preferred candidate Rev Bryon Hansen. Hopefully everyone had an opportunity to spend some time with him and his wife Britt. If you were unable to attend there is another meet and greet at our next Coffee Fellowship social after the service on Feb 4 in room C.

In accordance with our constitution, we have been working on the procedures and ballots for our home bound members. Parish Ministries will facilitate this voting between January 22nd and Feb 10th.

The Call vote will be held on February 11 in the parish hall after the service. The synod office has been informed, and will have a representative there for the proceedings. According to our constitution a two thirds majority affirmative vote of members present is required to issue the Call. If affirmed, a second vote will then be taken to establish the compensation package as negotiated by our treasurer in consultation with the Council. This second vote only requires a simple majority to pass. The candidate then has up to 30 days to accept the call.

“Almighty God, giver of all good gifts: Look on your Church with grace and guide the minds of those who shall choose a pastor for our parish, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”

-Matthew Kahn, Call Committee Chair

EXTENDED MINISTRY

THE WEST SEATTLE HELPLINE went \$50,000 over their grants budget in December, so they must cut that same amount from their 2024 budget. This money covers grants for people in danger of eviction or utility shut-offs, and is granted once a year to those in temporary need, as well as to the working poor. Every recipient is carefully vetted before funds are awarded. In 2023 donations dropped drastically after the federal funds for Covid-19 relief expired. Also, donations from individuals have decreased from previous years. Please consider giving extra to this very important and worthy organization. You can send a check directly to the West Seattle Helpline, or through your giving to First Lutheran, noting that it is a donation to the Helpline. Thank you so much.

THERE IS AN **URGENT NEED** for bedding, blankets, sleeping bags, pillows, clothing, toiletries, etc. at **Riverton Park United Methodist Church**. Several hundred asylum seekers have been arriving at the church seeking shelter, many of whom walked from Sea-Tac Airport. Several articles have appeared in The Seattle Times about this over-whelming situation. If you feel you can help, go to <https://rivertonparkumc.com/donate> [Click on “Social Services” in the left hand column; then “Migrant Arrival Support” in the next column, scroll down to “DONATIONS” and explore “How You Can Help.”] This is the season to share and give gifts. Helping people who are strangers in our country and have few possessions or clothing, will be a blessing in so many ways.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

has a long history of reaching our neighbors caught in the crossfire in Israel and Gaza. From sending emergency health care supplies to delivering LWR Mission Quilts, your love has long been reaching our neighbors caught in this conflict. With your support, together, we will not abandon these neighbors now.

Your gift will deliver critically needed resources like medical care, food, water and essential supplies where they are needed most.

Thank you for putting your faith in action and sharing God’s love with your neighbors.

Gifts can be made online at lwr.org/crisis,

mail a check to **Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061**,

write **CRISIS** in the memo,

-or- write a check to FLCWS, designating that the monies go to LWR/crisis.



**NEIGHBORS
IN CRISIS**

Your gift to Lutheran World Relief will deliver urgently needed support and care to innocent civilians in Israel and Gaza.

lwr.org/crisis

 LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF

Thank you for sharing God's love with your neighbors when and where they need it most.

AP Photo/Maya Altman

The Presentation of Our Lord

On Friday, February 2nd we celebrate *The Presentation of our Lord* . This feast day revolves around a prophecy in Luke 2:34-35 that relates a stirring story about Christ’s ministry. It says he will be spoken against, and that he will cause the rise and fall of many. Honor God this day for the wisdom of this prophecy.



The Transfiguration of Our Lord

The Last Sunday in Epiphany, February 11th, is the Transfiguration of Our Lord. On this day we behold the splendor of Christ surrounded by the glory of God. Study Matthew 17:1-9 to learn more about the time when Moses and Elijah appeared to Jesus, and the mysterious cloud from which God’s voice tells us, “This is my Son, the beloved with whom I am well pleased; listen to him!”



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