



# THE MESSENGER

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEST SEATTLE

(206) 935-6530

[www.flcws.org](http://www.flcws.org)

April 2023

## HOLY WEEK 2023

On Sunday, April 2, 2023, we begin The Great and Holy Week, in which we remember and participate together in the central events of our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord.

The week begins on The Sunday of the Passion, April 2, with an entrance liturgy remembering the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on the Sunday before his death, during which the crowds hailed him with cries of “Hosanna to the Son of David.” This joyous procession forms an opening bookend to the week, after which the focus immediately shifts to the story of the Passion, read this year from the Gospel of Saint Matthew, establishing the somber character of the week.

On Maundy Thursday, April 6, the liturgy begins with instruction, confession of sins, and absolution. The day focuses first on the new commandment (*mandatum* in Latin, from which the day takes its name), as Jesus charges the apostles to love and to serve one another, following his example. The second focus is on the institution of the Holy Eucharist (Holy Communion), in which Jesus offers the gift of himself to us in the bread and wine. The service concludes with the stripping of the altar, symbolic of Christ, done in silence in the semi-darkened church.

Good Friday, April 7, is the most somber and simplest of the liturgies of Holy Week, as we remember the crucifixion and death of Jesus to pay the price for our sins. It is the one day in the church year on which the Holy Eucharist is not celebrated. The lessons for the day climax with the reading of the Passion story from the Gospel of Saint John, interspersed with contemplative hymns and the gradual extinguishing of the office candles in the chancel. The service ends with the veiling of the altar crucifix, symbolizing the darkness of the world without the light of Christ.

The week concludes with the joyful celebration of The Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday, April 9. As the preeminent festival of the year, Easter is celebrated not just on a day, but over seven Sundays. It is the only time of the church year with Sundays “of” the day, literally a week of Sundays to celebrate Christ’s victory over sin and death. Easter Sunday is thus the first of 50 days to celebrate Christ’s triumph and the deliverance of his people.

Plan to join us for these rich observances this Holy Week. May your faith be renewed and strengthened as we worship together on these momentous days.

Andrew J. King, Cantor

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Attendance: Why do we go to church?

Since the COVID closures that moved most churches to online instead of in-person worship and then the subsequent resuming of in-person worship, many churches have found their attendance numbers lower than prior to COVID closures. Anecdotally, several of my own friends and acquaintances have admitted to not returning to their home churches. The reasons vary. Some feel that since their church continues to offer the online format it is easier to watch church from the comfort of their own homes. Some have said they simply got out of the habit. Yet others remain wary of the spread of COVID.

Within our MSP that was submitted to the ELCA-NWWA synod in preparation for calling a new pastor, we estimated our 2022 attendance to be an average of 28 people. So far in 2023, we have averaged 40 attendees. This growth in attendance is great news. But why have we seen an increase?

- 1) Attending church is how we are spiritually fed, through Word and Sacrament.
- 2) Attending church is an act of Stewardship towards God, demonstrating gratitude for His bountiful gifts.
- 3) Attending church, especially in a time where we are in the call process, demonstrates an act of Stewardship with our time, supporting the pastors and lay people that serve our church.
- 4) Attending church allows us to share Communion in fellowship with one another. The following prayer from our liturgy underscores this: "Unite the wills of those whom you have fed through one heavenly food." We are blessed as believers together, through the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

During this season of Lent, Holy Week and the Celebration of Easter, let us worship together in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

We will be re-introducing the communion registration forms, so feel free to complete a form when you attend. If you see a visitor, encourage them to complete a form, too!

-Janine Douglass



# COMMUNION REGISTRY FORM

## WHAT, WHY, WHERE, WHEN AND HOW EXPLAINED

What: A Communion Registry form is needed to provide data on who in the congregation has communed at least three times during a calendar quarter.

Why: It is a requirement (B8.05.04a ) if you desire to be considered a voting member of this congregation.

Where: If you are taking communion during worship service then please fill out the form. It will be inserted in your Sunday Bulletin.

When: Please have the form filled out and complete prior to the Offertory Anthem when Church Ushers come around with offering plates.

How: Place the filled out form in the offering plate when the ushers come around.

Communion is not the only requirement to being considered by this congregation as a voting member. Other requirements are referenced in Chapter C8.02 in the Constitution of First Lutheran Church of West Seattle:

C8.02 Members shall be classified and recorded in the parish records as follows:

- a. BAPTIZED members are those persons who have been received by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in this congregation, or, having been previously baptized in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, or have been received from other Lutheran congregations by affirmation of baptism.
- b. VOTING members are baptized members who have met two additional requirements. First they have received the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism after a period of instruction determined by the Parish Ministry committee. And second they have during each of the preceding four calendar quarters communed regularly and made regular contributions of record to this congregation's general fund as specified in bylaw 8.05.04.

I would encourage every member to request a copy of the church Constitution and keep it for further reference. To request a hard copy of the church constitution please submit your request to Casey Blake at [flcws.fd@gmail.com](mailto:flcws.fd@gmail.com).

You do not have to be a voting member to participate in church worship services or social functions.

Peace be with you,  
Tyler Schorn Parish Ministry Chair  
Bob Baker, Janine Douglass, Marianne Petersen

## EXTENDED MINISTRY COMPASS HOUSING ALLIANCE

The needs of the homeless and disadvantaged continue to be of high importance to FLCWS. It was reaffirmed that the best way to accomplish this as a church is to continue with financial and material donations for Compass Housing Alliance, Mary's Place and the West Seattle Food Bank.

The story of Compass Housing Alliance began in 1920, when a remarkable couple from Sweden, the Rev. Otto and Mrs. Alva Karlstrom, founded the Lutheran Sailors and Loggers Mission in Pioneer Square. The name has changed, but the spirit of the mission—to provide a welcoming space for people in need—has been the same for over a century. Being founded by a Lutheran pastor, Compass has deep roots in the Lutheran faith community. Compass honors those roots by showing love and caring through acts of service to anyone in need, regardless of their own religion. Compass continues to host a Lutheran congregation, the Church of Steadfast Love, at its main shelter building in Pioneer Square. This congregation is open to any adult, including those whom Compass serves. However, Compass does not require or promote participation in any religious activity as part of its programs. Compass does not treat anyone differently based on their religion, age, ancestry, color, disability, marital status, national origin, parental/family status, race, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

Compass Housing Alliance will be holding its Homeward 2023 Gala, titled *Portraits of Change*, on April 1, 2023 at MOHAI, 860 Terry Ave. N, in Seattle. There will be interactive art, performances, entertainment, dinner, cocktails, and dancing. [www.compasshousingalliance.org/homeward/](http://www.compasshousingalliance.org/homeward/)

Material donations for Compass Housing Alliance continue to be collected in Room C.

-Dana Kahn, Ben Dobbeck, Chair

## A HUGE THANK YOU!!!

To everyone who helped prep the parsonage for painting and kitchen upgrades. Jeff Sagmoen and Steve McCord worked out every bit of frustration they had demolishing kitchen cabinets, that Jeff's grandfather had made and installed many years ago. Scott and Valerie Schorn helped prep rooms for painting, carted a number of desks out of the house, and took a truck load of things to the dump. The rest of us prepped the living areas and bedrooms and halls and closets for painting (cleaning walls, taping, filling nail and screw holes, and covering all exposed wood with paper or plastic. David and Jennifer King, Earl and Carol Nelson, Kathrine Young, Andrew and Lorraine

# KNOWING YOUR BIBLE VERSES LEADS TO DELICIOUS REWARD!

300° 2 Hours

Who knew that knowing your Bible verses could turn out to be so delicious? Check out the ingredients and see if you can figure out this cake recipe. After you have done that, bake it and bring it to a Coffee Fellowship Hour on the first Sunday of each month in Room C, and share it with everyone else. Enjoy!

## SCRIPTURE CAKE

½ cup Judges 5:25, last clause	II Chronicles 9:9, to taste
2 cups Jeremiah 6:20	Pinch of Leviticus 2:13
2 T I Samuel 14:25	½ cup Judges 4:19, last clause
6 Jeremiah 17:11	2 cups Nahum 3:12
1½ cups I Kings 4:22	2 cups Numbers 17:8
2 tsp Amos 4:5	2 cups I Samuel 30:12

Whip the Judges, Jeremiah, and Samuel until light.  
Beat the 6 Jeremiah yolks and add.  
Add Kings, Amos, Chronicles, and Leviticus  
alternately with Judges.  
Fold in Nahum, Numbers, and Samuel, then also  
the 6 Jeremiah whites, beaten stiff.  
Bake in greased 10 inch tube pan.



*Serves 28*

**Interpretation of Scripture Cake**  
Beat together until light and fluffy ½ cup butter, 2 cups sugar and 2T honey.  
Beat 6 egg yolks until light and add.  
Add sifted mixture of 1½ cups sifted flour, 2 tsp baking powder, 2 tsp cinnamon, ½ tsp nutmeg, 1/2 tsp cloves and a pinch of salt, in alternate portions with ½ cup milk.  
Stir in 2 cups chopped figs, 2 cups raisins and 2 cups chopped almonds.  
Fold in 6 egg whites, beaten stiff.  
Bake the cake in well-greased 10 inch tube pan lined with greased brown paper for extra protection.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FOOD BANK COLLECTION:** The West Seattle Food Bank box and all collections are in room C. Your much needed donations are taken to the West Seattle Food Bank, Compass Housing Alliance and Mary's Place as they come in. Suggested Food Bank donations for April are all manner of non-perishable baby products, although any non-perishable foods or grocery store gift cards are welcomed.

**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.

# STEWARDSHIP

Time, Talent, and Treasure. When we speak of stewardship, we usually think of the last T, Treasure, but I wanted to focus on the first T this month.

I wanted to encourage everyone to be good stewards of their Time by regularly praying for First Lutheran West Seattle, and asking for the Holy Spirit to guide us as we call a new pastor. Honestly, the word that comes to my mind is pester. Let's imitate the widow in Luke 18 and be persistent in asking for help. Asking someone for the same thing daily? Well, *pestering* is probably about right. Fortunately we have been promised that our prayers will be answered. We can pray and rely on God's response.

Please pray for the call committee and the church council. Please pray for the synod. Please pray for the pastors who are helping us out on Sundays.

Please pray that we will find a new pastor who will lead us into the future, while hewing to the Lutheran confessions and maintaining the traditions that respect the past.

Please pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us in the call process. Pray that we can discern God's will when he answers.

Back to the last T for a second, Treasure: I think everyone reading this knows how important it is for members of FLCWS to continue their financial support of the congregation, especially in this moment of transition as we search for a new pastor.

Please take the Time to keep our little congregation in your prayers.

-Carol Nelson, Church Council

# ✠ PARISH PRAYERS ✠

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

Nancy Lawson, Janice Lundbeck, Kim Lim, Holly Petersen, Leah and Melissa Baker, Felicia Wells, Eileen & Dave Nestoss, Kyra Stromberg, Peter Morrison, Paula and The Rev. Douglas Lindsay, Karen Granger, Nick Karlson, Angel Lynne, Richard Patishnock, Paul Sponheim, , J.J. Chang, Kathy Krebbs, Martin and Lauri Nygaard and the family of the Rev. Howard Fosser, who died in Christ.

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

Pray for our bishops Elizabeth Eaton & Shelley Bryan Wee; our presiding ministers Philip Lee, Barry Fritts, Douglas Lindsay, Jack Richards, and Philip Nesvig, our choirmaster Dean Hard and our cantor Andrew King, that they may 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 which find joy in service and faithful stewardship. Pray that God would work within you to become a good steward of your time, your talents and finances. Pray to strengthen the stewardship of our congregation in these same ways.

Pray for the hungry, ignored, abused, and homeless. 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, for those devastated by war and natural disasters, for unbelievers, the addicted, the sexually abused and harassed, and the unemployed.

Pray that God will bless you through the lives of the saints: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1945; Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury; 1109; St. Mark, the Evangelist; Catherine of Sienna, teacher, 1380.

## *A Treasury of Prayers*

O God, whose loving kindness is infinite, mercifully hear our prayers; and grant that as in this life we are united in the mystical body of thy Church, and in death are laid in holy ground with the sure hope of resurrection; so at the last day we may rise to the life immortal, and be numbered with thy saints in glory everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*For All the Saints I:973*

## PULPIT SUPPLY

During the month of April, we will be served by a new pulpit supply pastor who is new to our congregation. Be sure to welcome him on April 16:

*Pastor Jack Richards* is a Chicago area native who graduated from Augustana College-Rock Island, Illinois in 1973 and Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary in St. Paul in 1977. He was ordained as a Pastor in the former Lutheran Church in America in June that same year. During seminary (and Internship), Jack served in various ministerial capacities at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Following ordination, he has gone on to serve rural parishes in Wadena, Minnesota and Cavalier, North Dakota. In 1990, he accepted a Call as Chaplain at Bethany of the NW (Everett, WA) and went on to serve Lutheran congregations in Marysville (1993-2007) and Prince of Peace in Everett (2007-2014). In retirement, he has provided interim ministry, pulpit supply and sabbatical coverage at area NALC and LCMC congregations. He also serves as Chaplain at Bethany Home on a part-time basis. In November, Jack retired as a volunteer Chaplain for the Everett Police Department. This culminated a community ministry that spanned over five decades in three different states and seven different police and fire departments.

Jack married Joneen Gaylord in Minneapolis on May 24, 1975. They have two sons: Ben (wife: Jennifer) and Darin (Stacie) and four grandchildren ranging in age from 2 to 11. Favorite retirement pursuits include travel; recently returning from Belize and a special trip to the Canadian Maritime Provinces last summer.



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