



# THE MESSENGER

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEST SEATTLE  
(206) 935-6530 [www.flcws.org](http://www.flcws.org) APRIL 2024

## PASTOR'S PAGE—SPRINGTIME

Last month, I walked every day by a colorful blue pot near our front porch. I saw something growing in the blue pot every day. I watched the “tete-a-tete” (miniature daffodils) come to full bloom. It was great fun to see the tulips slowly break open. The flowers I saw growing in that pot were indicative of what was occurring. Spring had sprung! The death of winter gives way to birth.

This daily sighting enriched my Lenten journey. Every day the growth in this little pot spoke volumes to me about the nature of Christian life. I was buoyed by that growth and began praying that I grow a little bit every day.

Just as the seed is born to die for the sake of a more plentiful life, so our new birth at baptism initiates a life long journey of death giving way to life.

Luther described it as dying and rising every day.

*Thus the Christian life is nothing else than a daily baptism, begun once and continuing forever ... let all Christians regard their baptism as the daily garment that they are to wear all the time. Every day they should be found in faith and with its fruits, suppressing the old creature and growing up in the new.*

It is no small wonder that early Christians called springtime Lent. The word means springtime. Our preparation for Easter is marked by an openness to God who brings life out of death. Now Holy Week has begun. Holy Week preceded by Lent alone has the potential to move hearts and souls to rebirth and newness of life.

For me, this new life began the first day I started pastoring at First Lutheran Church of West Seattle. I believe that God has brought us together in this time of dying and rising, to place us on a journey of walking with Christ as we discern what ministry in West Seattle looks like in the days to come.

It is a great honor to be here among you and to follow Pastor Ron Marshall, who left a legacy of rich pastoral care, astute theological thinking, rich teaching and preaching, and served the whole church well with a critique intended to always bring the church back to the foot of the cross.

Thank you for your warm welcome and the opportunity to serve. As we take this Holy Week walk, I look forward to celebrating Easter and the chance to celebrate the feast with you.

In these days of Holy Week where we experience anew the great days of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection, we do a deep dive into the gracious and merciful heart of God.

May this be our dwelling place every day.

Peace,  
*Pastor Bryon*

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rev. Hansen began his Pastorship on March 1, 2024. We ask for God's blessing on his call at FLCWS. It is comforting and a welcome relief to know that we will have his consistent presence at the pulpit. If you have not done so already, I encourage everyone to meet him and welcome him to FLCWS. Rev. Hansen's investiture will happen on Thursday evening, May 30, at 7 pm. Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee will preside, and a reception will follow in the parish hall. Please plan to join us for this festive occasion. The church council and Rev. Hansen have already begun to meet and discuss plans for additional church activities: new member classes, Sunday classes, and a council retreat.

Parsonage renovations are nearly complete. There will be a need for another volunteer work party for the final cleanup, which I anticipate will need to be in late spring. There is a desire from Tilden School to expand additional space into the parsonage for the next school year. The church council and Tilden will continue to have further discussions. We should look to wrap up the parsonage project before July 2024.

I hope everyone will have a joyous Easter season. Many thanks for our relationships, generous gifts, and blessings upon our church. May we continue to increase our financial support for the church's future. May we continue to grow in our steadfast faith.

-Steve Liang, President



MUSIC NORTHWEST PRESENTS

# to the invisible listener

SUNDAY, APRIL 21 AT 3:00 PM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOLS, 6215 196TH ST SW, LYNNWOOD

concerto in a major for piano and strings  
J. S. BACH

hermit songs  
SAMUEL BARBER

to the invisible listener  
JACOB BERANEK (WORLD PREMIERE)

texts by  
REV. RONALD MARSHALL | ALYSSA STADTLANDER | 8TH - 13TH C. IRISH MONKS

Jenny Spence, soprano  
Emily Hu, cello  
David Horton, piano  
Jane Harty, piano

 \$18 general, \$16 seniors, FREE to students under age 25  
(students must reserve in advance by contacting Music NW)  
Tickets at [musicnorthwest.org](https://musicnorthwest.org)

# STEWARDSHIP

## *How Much and to Whom*

A study of the Ten Commandments notes that the first three commandments pertain to our relationship with God: that we should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

The remaining commandments pertain to “others,” that is, that we should fear and love God so that we honor him in our relationships with parents, spouse, and neighbors in need.

Regarding Stewardship, we honor God, by returning a tithe of the benefit of our labors. We do this through the church, which is the body of Christ, a place of teaching, and preaching the Word of God, in a place for the administration of the Holy Sacraments.

Is there such an index for stewardship for neighbors in need? May I suggest a tithe of what we spend for groceries and eating out as an index of what we should contribute to the food bank, and other charities that provide groceries for those in need (Mt 25:40).

Extending this discussion, a tithe of what we spend for travel, recreation, and vacations might be a good index of what we contribute to agencies such as the Compass Housing Alliance, World Vision, the International Rescue Committee, Mary's place, etc., agencies that serve those who cannot afford such extras (Mt 25:40).

We will have to give God an account of our stewardship (Mt 25:14-30, 31-46). Will we be able to say that, in spite of our sins, the commandments and Jesus guided us?

-Mariann Petersen

# COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

The coffee hour at First Lutheran began in the spring of 2023. The idea was first suggested by Bob Baker. The Parish Ministry Committee then wrote an article for last year's March Messenger. The gathering on the first Sunday of each month has been very well attended. Our members definitely enjoy the treats that are provided each month – the serving platters are usually emptied, with just a few cookies or small sandwiches going home with attendees in “doggie bags.” This is a welcomed time for members and visitors to share conversations over coffee.

Please consider signing up to bring treats for one of our gatherings. The custom has been to offer a savory item and something sweet. Many Sundays two people have shared this undertaking, coordinating with each other to provide some variety. And, going halves is like half the work and twice the fun! We have enjoyed many different offerings - small simple sandwiches, quiche, flat-bread roll-ups, Latvian open-faced sandwiches, crackers and cheese. The sweets have been even more varied. Don't worry about having to make coffee – I will take care of that each month. The sign-up sheet can be found on the bulletin board in the hallway, outside of Room C.

-Teri Korsmo

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**EASTER GOSPELS:** Join Pastor Bryon for a discussion of the Easter Gospels beginning the Second Sunday of Easter, April 7, following the monthly coffee fellowship. The next Sunday we will meet after worship over lunch. This adult formation opportunity will last throughout the Easter season. We will look ahead to the Gospel for the next Sunday. These Gospels include appearances of the Risen Jesus and images of the Risen Jesus. Through them we are given a picture of Christ and an opportunity to ponder what it means to abide in him.

**PASTOR HANSEN'S INVESTITURE SERVICE MAY 30 - *SAVE THE DATE*:** The Reverend Bryon Hansen will be invested into the office of Pastor of First Lutheran Church of West Seattle on Thursday evening, May 30, at 7 pm. Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee will preside. A reception will follow in the parish hall. Please plan to join us for this festive occasion.

**FOOD BANK COLLECTION:** The West Seattle Food Bank box and all collections are in room C. Suggested Food Bank donation for April is baby products and supplies, although any non-perishable foods, personal products, or grocery store gift cards are welcomed. 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, April 7th, and the first Sunday of each month, multiple cup communion will be offered, in addition to intinction.

**DEO GLORIA CANTORES:** Choir rehearses on Thursdays, from 7:30 to 9:00 pm each week, through Pentecost. 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.

**IN REMEMBRANCE:** Within the last year, three long time FLCWS members have passed away: Janice Lundbeck, Martin Nygaard, and Howard Storhoff, and there has been a desire to find ways to honor them. If you would like to help with any of these memorials, we invite you to make a donation to any or all of these funds in the next few months. Note on your check how the money is to be distributed. Funds from the Martin Nygaard memorial has been used to purchase a plaque in his memory above the Luther collection for the church library. Martin served as librarian for many years. When the decision is made of how the other memorial money will be used, it will be announced in the Messenger. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

**RIVERTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** is still in need of help in housing the hundreds of immigrants that keep arriving. If you feel you can help, go to: <https://rivertonparkumc.com/donate>

## 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, Don Minter and children, Nora Vanhala, Connie Baker, Caroline and Konstantin Ritter, and Marilyn Jovanavich.

Pray for the homebound 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 our bishops Elizabeth Eaton & Shelley Bryan Wee, our pastor Bryon Hansen, 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, 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: Albrecht Dürer, painter (1528); Michelangelo, artist (1564); Dietrich Bonhoeffer, teacher (1945); St. Mark, Evangelist; Catherine of Siena, teacher (1380).

### *A Treasury of Prayers*

Eternal Father, you gave us the Easter mystery as our covenant of reconciliation. May the new birth we celebrate show its effects in the way we live. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

*For All the Saints, Volume III, page 1065*

### *Holy Week at First*

The annual Christian journey of Holy Week began with the procession of palms and the reading of the Passion from Mark's Gospel. The sacred Three Days, what Augustine termed the "Triduum" of Christ's passion, death and resurrection begins with the Maundy Thursday evening service. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus established the meal of the Eucharist, washed his disciples' feet, and gave us the greatest commandment of all, to love God with our whole hearts, and our neighbors as ourselves. The depth of God's love begins to be revealed to us in a special way during the solemn stripping of the altar.

We leave in silence.

We gather on Good Friday to hear the Passion of Jesus from John's Gospel. The passion reading is embellished with sacred music and hymnody. This is a day set aside for prayer and to ponder again the depths of God's love in Christ.

We leave again in silence.

Holy Saturday is an in-between time. Between Good Friday and Easter we find ourselves in a liminal space of having been touched again by God's dying love while we anticipate the joy of the Resurrection. (Many Christians gather on Easter Eve to celebrate the Great Easter Vigil. At First we will celebrate it again next year.)

On Easter Sunday the "alleluia" is recovered. We sing and shout "Christ is risen!" Once again, God surprises us with new life. So, we pull out all the stops and celebrate with great joy.

We do not leave in silence but we do segue into a fifty day celebration.

The season of Easter, often referred to as the Great Fifty Days, is seen as one continuous feast beginning on Easter day and culminating on the day of Pentecost.

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APRIL 2024



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