



THE MESSENGER

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEST SEATTLE
(206) 935-6530 www.flcws.org SUMMER 2023

LUTHERAN WORSHIP IS LITURGICAL

When I was a student at Pacific Lutheran University studying church music, a common definition of liturgy was “the work of the people.” *Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th edition, traces the word “liturgy” to the Greek “leitourgia,” meaning “public service.” These definitions suggest that liturgical worship is something far different from the passive experience of entertainment, which typifies many 21st century forms of worship. While all worship has some kind of structure, that does not necessarily involve active participation as “the work of the people.”

Lutheran worship is rooted in the historic patterns of temple worship and twenty centuries of Christian faith and practice. It follows the forms and collective wisdom of the church through the ages, finding in them a rich and varied source of spiritual depth and inspiration to sustain and nurture the lives of the faithful through the central act of worship.

Unlike many of his contemporaries, Martin Luther did not advocate radical reform of liturgical worship. Rather, he firmly believed in retaining the historic liturgies of the church, except where they conflicted with his understanding of the scriptures. He authored two forms of the liturgy, the *Formula Missae* (Latin Mass) of 1523 and the *Deutsche Messe* (German Mass) of 1526, both based upon the traditional Mass of Word and Sacrament. In Article 24 of the Augsburg Confession (1530), the 16th century confessors wrote:

“Our churches are falsely accused of abolishing the Mass. Actually, the Mass is retained among us and is celebrated with the greatest reverence. Almost all the customary ceremonies are retained, except that German hymns are interspersed here and there among the parts sung in Latin.” Theodore G. Tappert, translator and editor, *The Book of Concord* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1959), 56.

In October 1993, First Lutheran Church of West Seattle was privileged to host the distinguished Lutheran scholar, composer, and church musician Carl F. Schalk for a weekend of presentations on worship and hymnody in the Lutheran tradition. In those sessions he proposed a definition of liturgy as “the sum total of all the rites and ceremonies that nourish us from baptism to burial... between the first and last signs of the cross made upon us.” He also strongly emphasized that worship in our tradition is “not about what we want, but rather about what God has done for us,” not about what we think, but what God says to and requires of us.

We are blessed in our parish with a long history of faithful pastors and members who have honored and been nurtured in the faith through the inherited treasures of liturgical worship. May this rich received tradition continue to inspire a living practice of worship in our parish as we sing praise to and serve our Lord in this time and place.

Andrew J. King, Cantor

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1 Peter 5:1-3

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.



As I reflect on my term thus far as president, I'd like to share some leadership items I've gleaned. 1 Peter 5 encourages the elders of the church to serve willingly and eagerly. It goes on to say that participants new to the faith also have a role and it ends by summarizing that both groups have the opportunity to regard one another with humility. While we are between pastors at the moment, much of the work of a permanent pastor has fallen to the staff, council members and the congregation. This places an extra burden of time and resources on each of the members that make up our many committees, as well as our gifted staff. Priorities such as consistency in communication, assuming positive intent and demonstrating integrity, accountability and transparency in our council work are imperative during this time of transition. Thank you to those who have stepped up to serve in various areas of ministry here at FLCWS. Your leadership and professionalism are greatly appreciated.

The chapel roof has now been replaced, which should prevent any further flooding like what we saw during the winter months. The parsonage work continues, and much of the priming and painting is complete, thanks to the work of several congregation members and friends of the congregation.

The Parish Ministry Committee is working to visit those members that are homebound and to offer communion to those who desire it. We have stepped up the size of this committee to support all this work, including taking action on updating our membership roster.

As a reminder, the Messenger will take a hiatus for the months of July and August. The council will meet in July and the executive committee will meet in August. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, July 23rd and plan to attend the Mid-Year Congregational Meeting immediately following the 10:30 Liturgy.

-Janine Douglass,
President

STEWARDSHIP

Time, Talents, Tithe

Thirty-two years ago (April of 1991), our then Council President, Al Larson, started this stewardship article in an effort to help us all remember the importance of our personal sacrifices to God through First Lutheran Church of West Seattle. It is reprinted here with just a few small changes.

“This world runs on information, therefore this column is being added to *The Messenger* in an effort to inform and to educate the members of First Lutheran Church of West Seattle on what it means to be a true steward of the church. Being a steward of the church means much more than just giving 10% of our money to the work of the church. Being a steward means volunteering our time and utilizing our individual talents in helping the church achieve its mission in the world.

Volunteering your time gives one a sense of accomplishment and pride in the work of the church. There are many areas in need of volunteers and fortunately God has given us all special talents. Stewardship means using our talents to glorify God. There are the high profile organizations such as the Choir, the Council, or becoming a Church School teacher, all very important functions. But if these organizations are not for you, you might consider a Service Team, the Altar Guild, ushering, delivering contributions to the food bank, or other opportunities. There is something for everyone of all ages and interests, and the life of the church and your life will be enriched for it.

Stewardship also means giving our tithe to the Church. It is disturbing that people in most Lutheran Churches only give an average of 3% to 4% of their income to the church. A church needs money to achieve its mission. Some of what we take in goes to Extended Ministries. However, to continue to operate, money is also needed for heat, lights, water and sewer bills, building maintenance, salaries, supplies and other essentials. We need to consider prayerfully our call to tithe and to strive to achieve this goal, and our lives will be enriched for it.”



–Jeff Sagmoen,
Church Council

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MID-YEAR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JULY 23: The Mid-Year Meeting will be in the parish hall immediately after the 10:30 am liturgy. Voter sign-in will be at the back of the hall.

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 summer are easy snack items for school age children home for the summer months, although any non-perishable foods, personal products, 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.



CALL COMMITTEE

This past month the Call Committee has conducted initial interviews with both candidates in our synod provided second slate. Each candidate would bring unique gifts to the role. I want to thank the committee for continuing to conduct thoughtful and professional interviews throughout this journey. The committee will begin the process of discernment as we reflect on what we want in our next Pastor and whether we wish to move forward with either candidate. Please keep our congregation and the committee in your prayers.

I end with a prayer from Martin Luther about thankfulness for the Word.:

“O God, the Father of all mercy, we thank You exceedingly and continually that, according to the abundant riches of Your grace, You have led us to the treasury of Your Word, in which we have knowledge of Your beloved Son, that is, a certain pledge of our life and salvation to come in heaven, prepared for all who in pure faith and fervent love remain steadfast to the end, to which we hope and pray You will sustain us, and make us perfect with all the elect, in the same mind, conformed to the image of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.”

Yours in Christ,
Matthew Kahn,
Call Committee Chair

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, Paul Sponheim, J.J. Chang, Kathy Krebs, and Martin and Lauri Nygaard.

Pray for Grace Jean Liang, born March 30, 2023, and her parents, Steven and Gina Liang.

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, Horacio Castillo, 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, 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: Apostles Barnabas, Peter & Paul; St. John the Baptist.

A Treasury of Prayers

God, we praise you: Father all-powerful, Christ Lord and Savior, Spirit of love. You reveal yourself in the depths of our being, drawing us to share in your life and your love. One God, three Persons, be near to the people formed in your image, close to the world your love brings to life. We ask you this, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, true and living, for ever and ever. Amen.

For All the Saints II 43-44

Mary, Mother of Our Lord

The Feast of Saint Mary, the Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ, will be celebrated at our Sunday Liturgy on August 20th. On this day we will thank God for the life and faith of Saint Mary, who has been called the *Mother of all believers* for she was the first person to believe in the gospel.

Lutherans for centuries have honored Our Lady by praying the "Magnificat":

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his hand-maiden. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts, he has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever. (Luke 1:46-55)



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