



# THE MESSENGER

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEST SEATTLE

(206) 935-6530

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

May 2023

## Easter Life

In the midst of these great 50 days of Easter, we continue to celebrate together the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ as we gather around word and sacrament, focused on the accounts of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances in bodily form and his related teachings.

John 20 records Mary Magdalene as the first to arrive at the tomb early on Easter Sunday, where she found the stone already rolled away. She hurried off to tell Peter and "the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved" (John 20:2) what she had seen. The two disciples ran to the tomb and found it as Mary had said. When they entered the tomb, they found it empty, except for the linen grave clothes. The chapter later records Jesus' appearances to Mary Magdalene and the apostles.

The Apostle Paul summarizes the pivotal events of Holy Week and Easter in the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter of his first letter to the church at Corinth:

*For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. (1 Corinthians 15:3-8, NRSV)*

All these witnesses were utterly unprepared for what they experienced, since "as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead." (John 20:9) Yet their lives were all radically changed by their encounters with the resurrected Lord, and it is through their recorded testimony that we know these life altering events and come, by faith, to believe their message.

In the *The Saint James Daily Devotional Guide for the Christian Year*, Patrick Henry Reardon writes: *The Christian faith – the faith that declares "Abba, Father" and "Jesus is Lord" – is inseparable from its history. It is linear faith, which comes to us from that historical body – that organized religion – called "the Church." It was for the instruction of that Church that the apostles wrote the works contained in the New Testament....Now, if the Christian mind consists in knowing "Christ and him crucified"....there is no way for me to be a Christian apart from that first generation of believers whose minds and hearts were shaped by the apostolic ministry and transmitted through the apostolic memory. Apart from the apostolic memory, my relationship to Christ would be an exercise in subjective make-believe. It would not be the Christian faith at all. (The Saint James Daily Devotional Guide for the Christian Year, SReving 2023, pages 35-37.)*

May you be blessed with and by this apostolic faith this Easter season, as we await Christ's gift of the Holy Spirit, bestowed on the church on the Day of Pentecost, the 50<sup>th</sup> and final day of the paschal feast, celebrated this year on Sunday, May 28.

-Andrew J. King, Cantor

# PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Now all the vault of heav’n resounds  
in praise of love that still abounds:  
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”  
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!  
Repeat their song of glory here:  
“Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!”  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds, LBW*



Easter is the most important feast in the Christian calendar, when we celebrate the saving power of Christ’s resurrection. It was a joy to sing along to this hymn on Easter Sunday and to welcome people to our congregation on this holy day. Easter lasts 50 days, and by the end of May we will celebrate Pentecost , when we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit.

We were blessed to welcome back Pr. Doug Lindsay as our pulpit supply pastor for our Easter service, and continue to have visiting pastors preach for us on a rotational basis. I feel very fortunate that we have had such a strong group of faithful pastors – many of whom are retired – agree to help us out in our time of need as we await the call of a permanent pastor.

On the subject of our Facilities, work on the parsonage continues with additional painting parties scheduled for the end of April and early May. Please consider signing up for one of the events to help finish priming and painting the interior of the home.

The Parish Ministry Committee has reinstated the use of communion registration forms. The purpose of these registration cards is to update and sustain our member roster per our Church Constitutional requirements. The roster will help with determining voter eligibility for congregational meetings, including the meeting to call a permanent pastor. Please complete the form at least monthly and place them in the offering plate when you attend the 10:30am Sunday Liturgy.

Giving through the first quarter of 2023 has been strong, and sees us slightly ahead of projected giving. Trends in giving have changed a bit over recent years, with some members giving for the year all at once rather than on a weekly or monthly basis. Many thanks to the congregation for your faithful stewardship at this point in the calendar. Please continue to pray for our council, staff, the work of our committees, our congregation and our homebound members. I pray that God will bless us with a permanent pastor according to his good and perfect plan.

-Janine Douglass

# LIBRARY NEWS

You know the saying, “Variety is the spice of life.” Have you ever thought of this saying regarding our church library? If not, stop in to the library before or after church on a Sunday and take a look!

Here are a few examples of some of our new additions as well as some which have been on the shelf waiting to be checked out:

In our fiction section you’ll find many favorite authors and some you may want to explore to see if you’ll find a new favorite. An example of one of our new additions is *Replay* by Ken Grimwood. “What if you could live your life over again? And again? And again?” Sounds intriguing doesn’t it?

A new addition in our non-fiction section is *God Is Red* by Liao Yiwu. This is the secret story of how Christianity survived and flourished in Communist China.

Another new addition is *Krakatoa; The Day the World Exploded, August 27<sup>th</sup> 1883*. This book covers the examination of the legendary annihilation in 1883 of the volcanic island of Krakatoa, which was followed by an immense tsunami that killed nearly 40,000 people. The eruption helped to trigger in Java a wave of murderous anti-Western militancy among fundamentalist Muslims. Krakatoa gives an entirely new perspective on this fascinating and iconic event.

If you love poetry, did you know that among other poetry collections, we have *THE Complete Works Of Robert Frost* just sitting on the shelf waiting to be explored? Also, on the lighter side, a fun read for you may be *Real Scandinivians Never Ask Directions: Scandinavian America, Wit & Wisdom* by Art Lee. “From short stories to jokes and “quizzes,” Dr. Lee entertains and humors all those who love to read and laugh about the ways of those quiet, conservative lefse-lovers.”

On a more serious note, try *The Virtues Of Aging* by Jimmy Carter. Our 39<sup>th</sup> president answers the question of “what could possibly be good about growing old?” He gives plenty of good answers – many based on personal experiences and observations.

If you have youngsters in your life, remember that we have complete children and youth sections with plenty of picture books, chapter books, dvds, and cds for kids of all ages.

Use the computer station to search by Title, Author, or Subject to find any of these books or others of interest to you.

So, stop by the church library and take a look. You may find a treasure!

-Connie Baker, Librarian



# SHARE YOUR TIME AND TALENTS

*Saturday, April 29 & Sunday, April 30,  
Saturday, May 6 & Sunday, May 7*

Painting work parties are planned to continue the process of refreshing and remodeling the parsonage. We would love to have anyone who is able, and has done some interior painting work, to come help us continue the job of repainting the inside of the parsonage.

We hope to gather around 10 am Saturday, work as long as we can, and then again after church on Sunday. Bring some snacks, fruit, and/or beverages to share. A sign-up sheet is posted on the hall bulletin board. Sign up to come any day(s) you can help.

Many hands make light work, so the more people the faster the work will get finished!

Contact Steve Liang 206-245-3124 or Lorraine King 206-550-8009.



## In Thanksgiving



*“Baptized into the priesthood of Christ, we are called to offer ourselves to the Lord of the church in thanksgiving for what he has done and continues to do for us.”*

[Lutheran Book of Worship 1978]

It is our privilege to recognize those serving in the ministries of worship of First Lutheran Church of West Seattle.

With deep appreciation, we acknowledge to the members of our church family who have faithfully assisted month after month, week after week, Sunday after Sunday – before, during and after the worship services, serving as Altar Guild, Acolyte, Verger, Worship Assistant, Subdeacon, Deacon, Choir, Cantor, Choirmaster, Usher, and Nursery Care:

Chester Allen	Matthew Kahn	Natalie Nesvig
Gina Allen	Max Kahn	Philip Nesvig
Cristian Clemente	Samantha Kahn	Mariann Petersen
Sonja Clemente	Andrew King	Caroline Ritter
Janine Douglass	David King	Konstantin Ritter
Luke Douglass	Lorraine King	Bridget Sagmoen
Peter Douglass	Dale Korsmo	Jeff Sagmoen
Maxine Foss	Teri Korsmo	Scott Schorn
Dean Hard	Steven Liang	Tyler Schorn
Ernie Hopson	Stephen McCord	Kathrine Young
Lynn Hopson	Carol Nelson	
David Juhl	Earl Nelson	

-Dean Hard, Parish Deacon Emeritus

# 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 May are hygiene products, 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.



## STEWARDSHIP

*“As you, Lord, have lived for others, so may we for others live. Freely have your gifts been granted; freely may your servants give. Yours the gold and yours the silver, yours the wealth of land and sea; we but stewards of your bounty held in solemn trust will be.” –Verse 2, Son of God, Eternal Savior, LBW 364*

The hymn *Son of God, Eternal Savior* is always both simultaneously challenging and inspiring. The third stanza, *“Yours the gold and yours the silver, yours the wealth of land and sea”* is a challenging reminder that while we think we are in control of, owners of, and creators of our own wealth, that thinking is wrong – God is the creator of our wealth, which He freely gives to us. This is particularly challenging in our current time, in the midst of a transition out of a pandemic, and towards a future call of a new pastor. Admitting our own lack of control is not an easy task, but we are called in the hymn to do just that, which is further echoed in Psalm 24: *“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.” –Psalm 24:1-2, NRSV.* The final stanza of the hymn further instructs us what we are to do with the wealth that God has blessed us with, and what our role is with regard to our money and property – *“we but stewards of your bounty held in solemn trust will be.”* God gives us money and wealth as his bounty, that we would be stewards over it, and that we would hold and use it in trust for God’s purposes in the world.

As you think about your giving to the church and to extended ministries and other charities, think about the words of this wonderful hymn that both challenges us and our conception of where our wealth comes from and who creates it, and tells us that as stewards of the gifts God gives us, we should use those gifts to glorify Him, further His purposes on earth, and not waste the freely given gifts of God on things not worthy of the great gift He daily gives to us.

-David King, FLCWS 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, Paul Sponheim, J.J. Chang, Kathy Krebbs, 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, 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: Apostles Philip & James; Monica, mother of Augustine, 387.

## *A Treasury of Prayers*

Give me O Lord a steadfast heart, which no unworthy affection drag downwards, an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow on me also, O Lord my God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and faithfulness that may finally embrace you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thomas Aquinas (1225-1574)

## *Pulpit Supply Schedule*

*May 7 Rev Philip Lee  
14 Rev Barry Fritts  
21 Rev Barry Fritts  
28 Rev Horacio Castillo*

*June 4 Rev Philip Lee  
11 Rev Barry Fritts  
18 Rev Barry Fritts  
25 Rev Horacio Castillo*

*"Thank you very much for the opportunity to preach at FLCWS, your congregation is truly a rare jewel."*

*-Rev Barry Fritts*



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