



THE MESSENGER

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

Pastor's Page – We, Though Many, Are One

The past two months have been such a joy! I have enjoyed getting to know you, working alongside you, and worshipping with you through the great days of Holy Week and Easter. I am looking forward to the Investiture on May 30th. I also want to express my deep gratitude for the warm welcome and the many ways you have helped me settle in to this new call.

There is so much more to learn about you and this wonderful community. It has been fascinating to learn about your legacy of rich worship. Celebrating the mysteries of God is something you do well and I continue to appreciate learning about the practices that you cherish and how they have developed over many years.

One such practice is drinking from the common cup. I've learned that this has not been practiced since before COVID. The pandemic has changed us in so many ways and it is the church's ongoing task to discern how best to honor and live out our traditions in our current context.

So, what about the cup?

The practice of drinking from the cup is a good one to recover and maintain. I'm happy to report that we will return to drinking from the cup on Pentecost, May 19th. At the same time, it is important to honor practices that address very real concerns around health and protection. With that in mind, we will offer another cup, each Sunday, for those who prefer the practice of intinction (dipping the bread into the cup before receiving). We will also continue the practice of having pre-filled glasses available on the first Sunday of each month.

The practice of blessing and sharing from a common cup says something about the nature of the Eucharist and the church. At worship, Christ gathers people from many places and many walks of life into his very body. Sunday worship is profoundly communal. The signs, symbols, and wonders of the liturgy bear witness to the unity we share and the Spirit's ongoing work of gathering us as one and making us one.

Isn't this a great practice and much needed witness in a time of deep ideological divisions in our culture?

We enjoy life together while freely honoring each person's distinct gifts and viewpoints. Holding a different opinion is no excuse for demonization. It is, in fact, something that adds to the wonderful mix of Christ's one body. To have the "mind of Christ" is to practice mutual love, honor, and respect within a community of great diversity.

I count the gift of unity nothing less than a miracle of God. Christ alone makes us one. Stewarding the gifts of worship bears testimony to this holy work of God. I pray for the Spirit's energy as we move forward in mission, ministry, common prayer, and doing so in the bonds of love.

Peace,
Pastor Bryon

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rev. Hansen's investiture will happen on Thursday evening, May 30th at 7:00 PM. I acknowledge that weeknight events may be difficult for church members to attend. However, we highly encourage all to plan ahead to join. Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee will preside, and a reception will follow in the parish hall. Let us all celebrate this festive occasion. As I previously stated the Parsonage renovations are nearly complete. Final cleanup will be handled professionally, rather than relying on another volunteer party. Tilden School continues negotiating expansion into the parsonage for the next school year.

Our congregation will send three representatives to the synod assembly on May 18th. The individuals are Rev. Hansen, David King, and myself. The synod assembly will be held at Grace Lutheran Church in Des Moines.

PSALM 150:1-6

Praise the LORD!

Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty heavens!

Praise him for his mighty deeds;

praise him according to his excellent greatness!

Praise him with trumpet sound;

praise him with lute and harp!

Praise him with tambourine and dance;

praise him with strings and pipe!

Praise him with sounding cymbals;

praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD!

-Steve Liang, President

STEWARDSHIP

As an elected member of your church council, it is my turn to provide the stewardship article for this month's Messenger. Fortunately, I'm pretty sure you already know how important this topic is, so instead, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your thoughtful stewardship here at First Lutheran. By stewardship, I not only refer to the giving that funds our mission, but also the many gifts of time and talent that help our mission to thrive. Altar Guild, Choir, Council, Ushers, Acolytes, these are but a few of the many ways to support the work of First Lutheran, ways to offer that which God has first given us, and I thank you all for your continued prayerful support. Without that support, we could not keep the doors of God's house open.

-Dale Korsmo

Celebration of a New Ministry



Join your First Lutheran Church of West Seattle congregation, as well as others throughout the Synod and the wider community for the celebration of a new ministry as The Reverend Bryon Hansen is invested as Pastor.

*We will gather together on
Thursday, May 30th, the
Eve of the Feast of the Visitation.*

The liturgy begins at 7:00 p.m.

*With Mary and Elizabeth we rejoice,
acclaiming Jesus as Savior and magnifying
God's holy name.*

*Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee will preside
at the investiture.*

*Please join us for a celebratory reception following the
service in the downstairs Parish Hall.*

Light hors d'oeuvres, dessert and beverages will be provided.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOSPEL STUDY: Join Pastor Bryon for a discussion of the Gospels. We will meet after worship over lunch. We will look ahead to the Gospel for the next Sunday. include appearances of the Risen Jesus and images of the Risen Jesus. Through these Gospels, we are given a picture of Christ, and an opportunity to ponder what it means to abide in him.

CELEBRATION OF A NEW MINISTRY - 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 May is hygiene products and toiletries, 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, May 5th, 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 have 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, 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: Saints Philip and James, Apostles, Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria (373); Monica, mother of Augustine (387).

A Treasury of Prayers

Mighty God, by whose grace Elizabeth rejoiced with Mary and greeted her as the mother of the Lord: look with favor on your lowly servants that, with Mary, we may magnify your holy name and rejoice to acclaim her Son as our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen

*Collect for the Visitation
Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

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MAY 2024



First Lutheran Church of West Seattle
4105 California Avenue S.W.
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THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

This great feast of the Easter Season, the Ascension of Our Lord, follows Easter by 40 days., and falls on May 9th this year. Study Luke 24:50: ***Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.***

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

On Sunday, May 19th, we celebrate Pentecost. This day celebrates the "outpouring of the Spirit" and the birth of the Church, according to the chronology and theology of the book of Acts of the Apostles.

THE HOLY TRINITY

On Sunday, May 26th we will honor the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. On this day we will confess that our God is named *Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*. This is Christ's command in Matthew 28:19 when he says to us: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." It is this name that our faith requires us to adore – for God is in this name!

THE HOLY VISITATION

On this holy day, May 31, we give thanks to God for the blessed words between Saint Mary and Saint Elizabeth. We also give thanks for the honor paid Saint Mary by the still unborn Saint John the Baptist, when he moved in the womb of his mother, Saint Elizabeth. Study Luke 1:39-47 and Isaiah 11:1-5.