



THE MESSENGER

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

LUTHERAN HYMNODY IN THE 100 YEARS AFTER MARTIN LUTHER

The hymns of Martin Luther (1483-1546) are foundational to the Lutheran church's worship, providing hymn settings of many of the primary parts of the liturgy, the seasons and festivals of the church year, and parts of scripture and the catechism. The 100 years following Luther saw a significant expansion of the core body of Lutheran hymnody, much of which continues in use today.

One of the most celebrated writers of hymn texts and tunes after Luther was Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608), author of two great seasonal hymns. A hymn for Advent, *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* (LBW 31), known as the "King of Chorales," is based on the parable of the wise and foolish virgins recorded in Matthew 25:1-13. The Epiphany hymn *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* (LBW 76), the "Queen of Chorales," is based on Psalm 45.

Unlike the hymns of the Reformation era and those of Nicolai, in which one person commonly wrote both the text and tune of a hymn, those in the seventeenth century were increasingly the work of two people, with a poet writing the text and a musician the tune, without necessarily being written to be used together. Probably the most important writer of hymn tunes in the first half of the seventeenth century was Johann Crüger (1598-1662). Trained in both theology and music, Crüger was cantor of St. Nicholas' Church in Berlin from 1622 until his death. Among his many well known tunes are those for *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* (LBW 23), *Ah, Holy Jesus* (LBW 123), *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness* (LBW 224), *Jesus, Priceless Treasure* (LBW 457), and *Now Thank We All Our God* (LBW 533 and 534).

Texts for some of Crüger's tunes were written by a number of poets, all of whom were shaped by the devastating years of the Thirty Years' War of 1618-1648, during which millions of people died across Europe from conflict and disease. Johann Heerman (1585-1647), who served as pastor in a number of cities, wrote the text for *Ah, Holy Jesus* (LBW 123). Johann Franck (1618-1667), a lawyer and political leader, wrote the texts for *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness* (LBW 224) and *Jesus, Priceless Treasure* (LBW 457). Martin Rinkart (1586-1649) was trained in music and theology, serving as pastor in Eilenburg from 1617 until his death. In spite of the suffering he endured, losing his wife to the plague and burying as many as 50 people a day, he authored the magnificent text of praise *Now Thank We All Our God* (LBW 533 and 534).

Without question, the greatest and most beloved author of hymn texts in German after Luther was Paul Gerhardt (1606-1676). He studied at the University of Wittenberg, eventually becoming a pastor at St. Nicholas' Church in Berlin in 1657, where Johann Crüger was cantor. His many great hymns include a collaboration with Crüger *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* (LBW 23), *A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth* (LBW 105), *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* (LBW 116 and 117), *Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me* (LBW 336), and *Commit Thy Way, Confiding*, for which Carl Schalk composed a new tune for our congregation in 2013 (inside back of LBW). Carl Schalk has written, "That Paul Gerhardt's hymns continue to enjoy a genuine popularity in Lutheran parishes throughout the world is a tribute to their richness, their depth of substance, and their ability to connect with the human condition. They are personal without being individualistic. They touch the reality of the human condition when confronted with the despair and hopelessness which that condition inevitably brings, yet always point to the hope that is to be found in Jesus Christ." (Carl Schalk, *Singing the Church's Song*. Minneapolis: Lutheran University Press, 2015, p. 179).

-Andrew J. King, Cantor

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He maketh me lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside still waters. 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me along the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 23 (KJV)



This Psalm is often included in bulletins for funeral services and speaks to the assurance of eternal life with God. David said he had no fear in adversity because of the comfort of God's power. As God was David's shepherd in the Old Testament, He is ours today through Jesus Christ.

2024 pledge cards were sent out in early October. Completing the pledge cards and turning them in promptly allows the council to put together a thoughtful and informed budget for next year. Please prayerfully consider your giving pledge for the coming year. Your tithe covers a wide array of expenses for the church, such as salaries for staff, building maintenance and repairs, office supplies and library materials. Typically we begin the budget process at the November

council meeting and finalize it at the December meeting. According to scripture, a tithe of 10% of income is a worthwhile goal to work towards. If you are not quite there, consider increasing your pledge as you are able to. Your pledge in the coming year, especially, helps to position us for the future as we enter year number three of our search for a permanent pastor. If you did not receive a pledge card, please notify the office.

Work to update our constitution started four years ago, under the direction of Pr. Marshall and then-president Cary Natiello. This project was tabled following Pr. Marshall's unexpected passing and only recently was resumed by the current executive committee and council. Bylaw changes need a single vote by the congregation to be ratified. The Constitution changes require two separate votes by the congregation in order to be ratified. The first meeting on November 19th will include votes on both Constitution and Bylaw changes. The second meeting, is scheduled to be held just prior to the 2024 Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024, and will be to vote to ratify the Constitution changes only. Please join us on these dates in the Parish Hall immediately following the 10:30am Liturgy.

.Janine Douglass, President

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOOD BANK COLLECTION: The West Seattle Food Bank box and all collections are in room C. Suggested Food Bank donations for November/December are non-perishable holiday foods: potatoes, gravy, turkey, vegetables, baking ingredients, etc., although any non-perishable foods, personal products, or grocery store gift cards are welcomed. Compass Center is in need of new socks for men and women. 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.

WHY COMMUNION REGISTRY? Our Constitution limits voting to members who commune at least 3 times each quarter and contribute at a given level. The Worship Registration form is an objective way the Council can document who meets the communion requirement. Thank you for your cooperation.

COMMUNION CHANGES: On Sunday, November 5th, and the first Sunday of each month, multiple cup communion will be offered, in addition to intinction. The three person limit at each side of the communion rail has been removed

DEO GLORIA CANTORES: Choir rehearses on Thursdays, from 7:30 to 9:00 pm each week. If you are interested in joining the choir, please contact Dean Hard or Andrew King at the church office.

All Saints'



FESTIVAL & CELEBRATION: Join us for our All Saints' Festival Service, Sunday, November 5th at 10:30 am. Following the service, there will be a buffet reception in the Parish Hall. Please sign up on the sheet on the hallway bulletin board if you wish to contribute a sweet or savory item.

2024 PLEDGES: *Many thanks for all the pledge cards that have been returned.* The budget committee will be meeting before the end of the year and the compiled pledge information is very important for putting together the new budget for 2024. *If you haven't yet made your pledge, please consider doing so soon.* Place your card in the offering plate on Sunday or email the information to tkorsmo@flews.org

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & VOTE: *Sunday, November 19,* after the service, a special congregational meeting will be held in the parish hall to review and vote to accept council-approved changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of First Lutheran Church of West Seattle.

STEWARDSHIP

The month of November ushers in the start of the holiday season. Fall is in full swing. The Thanksgiving holiday is a time to spend with family and friends, with the the Thanksgiving meal being a main focal point (especially to me) of the holiday. Some may disagree and instead state that the bargain shopping is really the main focal point. Over the years the duties of the opening prayer has fallen upon my shoulders, as I may be the only church-attending member present. I often hesitate at first on what to pray, but I reliably fall back to our weekly prayer, which precedes “The Great Thanksgiving.”

**Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us –
our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.
Receive them for the sake of Him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

But have we all given joyously and thankfully? Our prayer is simple, yet difficult to follow. God has given us everything out of love. We acknowledge receiving these gifts, and then ultimately recognize the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. I choose to fall back on this prayer during the holidays to allow the words to resonate among my family and friends. Perhaps it may one day provoke comments and/or questions.

Therefore let us offer our tithe with joy and thanksgiving!

Proverbs 11:25

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

2 Corinthians 9:7

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

-Steve Liang, Church Council

CALL COMMITTEE

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

On Tuesday October 24, 2023, the Call Committee unanimously voted to make Candidate # 6 our “Preferred Candidate” or our “Candidate of Choice”. We reached out to the candidate and to the synod regarding our decision. The candidate wanted some time for discernment before formally accepting the Preferred Candidate designation.

This special designation means that FLCWS will no longer seek other candidates and the candidate will not entertain other calls until the process is completed or terminated. *What are the next steps?*

The next steps are to bring the candidate in for an interview with the church council. This will allow both the candidate and council to get to know each other better. There is also a separate introductory meeting with the staff to begin building a working relationship.

Once the council approves and the candidate agrees to continue, the congregation will be invited for a series of gatherings to meet the candidate, and for the candidate to get to know us. They will also preside over services so we can have an opportunity to hear the Word from the candidate.

If all goes as planned, the congregation will then meet and formally vote on extending the call to the candidate. A two thirds majority is required to extend the call. The candidate then has 30 days to accept the call or not. I am looking forward to these next exciting steps with everyone.

“Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. Inspire all pastors to preach your word diligently and your people to receive it willingly, that finally we may receive the crown of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

-Matthew Kahn, Call Committee Chair

✠ 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, Leah and Melissa Baker, Felicia Wells, Eileen & Dave Nestoss, Kyra Stromberg, Peter Morrison, Paula and The Rev. Douglas Lindsay, Karen Granger, Angel Lynne, Martin and Lauri Nygaard, Connie Baker, and Ernie Hopson.

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

Pray for our bishops Elizabeth Eaton & Shelley Bryan Wee; our presiding ministers Philip Lee, Barry Fritts, Bryon Hansen, Douglas Lindsay, Jack Richards, Horacio Castillo, and Philip Nesvig; 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 and our call committee, 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, 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 unbelievers, the addicted, the sexually abused and harassed, and the unemployed.

Pray for people around the world who suffer from the effects of war, terrorism, natural disasters, poverty, and abuse, especially the people of Ukraine, Israel, Palestinians, Afghanistan, Morocco, Syria, Lebanon, and all who live in fear.

Pray that God will bless you through the lives of the saints: St Andrew, Apostle, Søren Kierkegaard, teacher (1855).

A Treasury of Prayers

We thank you, O God, for the saints of all ages:

For those who in times of darkness kept lamps of faith burning;
For the great souls who saw visions of larger truth and dared to declare it;
For the multitude of quiet and gracious souls whose presence has purified and sanctified the world;
And for those known and loved by us, who have passed from this earthly fellowship into the fuller light of life with you.

Amen.

For All the Saints, Volume II, page 517



Cup of Blessings Dinner Report

Thank you to all who came to the Cup of Blessings Dinner. We hope you liked the food, the program, prizes and the fellowship. Thank you for your donations for the West Seattle Food Bank. Just to remind everyone that all donations are going to the West Seattle Food Bank.

As of this writing we have raised over \$11,600 dollars. This is a great feat for our small church. So thank you very much.

When each of you sit down for your Thanksgiving dinner, you can think of how you helped less fortunate families have food on their table for their Thanksgiving meal.

Our cup of blessings truly runneth over!
God Bless you all!

Scott and Valerie Schorn

Gratitude Scavenger Hunt



1. Find something that makes you happy.
2. Something to give someone else to make them smile.
3. Find one thing that you love to smell.
4. Find one thing you enjoy looking at.
5. Find something that's your favorite color.
6. Find something you are thankful for in nature.
7. Find something that you can use to make a gift for someone.
8. Find something that is useful for you.

