



THE MESSENGER

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEST SEATTLE

(206) 935-6530

www.flews.org

October 2024

PASTOR'S PAGE –

Pilgrimage

Chances are that you are reading this issue of the *Messenger* while I am away. Along with Britt and another pastor, I am leading a Civil Rights Pilgrimage from October 1st through 9th. The inspiration for this journey came from a Sabbatical we took a few years ago that included travel in the American South. There we explored places that figured prominently in the civil rights era and people with unique perspectives of being impacted by the civil rights movement and those who are continuing the unfinished task of racial justice.

The journey begins in Atlanta and continues through Selma, Montgomery, Birmingham, and concludes in Memphis. We will visit places where history was made and places that tell the story of what has been and offer inspiration for what yet may be. All 39 of us will have opportunity to debrief our experience with each other and pray together.

Note that this journey is described not as a tour or a trip, but a pilgrimage. That's with intention. Going back to ancient times, Christians have made pilgrimages as part of their faith journey. Pilgrims traveled to the Holy Land in the fourth century and later visited Rome and other places associated with the apostles, saints, and martyrs. Through the centuries, thousands of places have been and continue to be destination places for pilgrims. The purpose of these pilgrimages is more than piquing historical interest. They are fresh encounters with God. Just so, we pray this pilgrimage to be an opportunity to step outside of ourselves and meet Christ anew.

I like the description of pilgrimage from Brother James Koester, abbot of the Society of St. John in Cambridge, Massachusetts: "Pilgrims aren't going places to simply see the sites. Pilgrims go to be surprised by God, and to discover a bond with other pilgrims. But you don't have to travel thousands of miles to be a pilgrim to be surprised by God. You only have to be a pilgrim and you can be that, right here and now, by opening yourself up to the power and presence of God"

In Christ's peace,
Pastor Bryon Hansen

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thank you to everyone who attended our fall kickoff mini-retreat, "*Fearfully and Wonderfully Made: Acknowledging Your Gifts and Embracing Your Call*," on September 15th. A special thanks to Nancy Monelli for her engaging facilitation! I always enjoy our church potlucks and look forward to more events like this in the future.

I'd like to share some updates from our church executive committee. We have publicly posted our open organist position, and potential candidates will be invited to substitute during Sunday worship. The committee, along with our church staff, will conduct a thorough interview process to find the right fit for our worship needs as we approach the Christmas season.

Our Mid-Year Congregational Meeting took place on July 28th, where we voted on one constitutional change, which passed successfully. The second and final vote will be held at our Annual Meeting in January 2025. It's been a busy summer, but now we're excited to welcome the fall season.

Adult Formation classes have resumed following worship, and attendance during the last series was encouraging. Additionally, pledge drive cards will be delivered soon. Please return your pledge cards as soon as you are able.

May God bless us in our endeavors together.

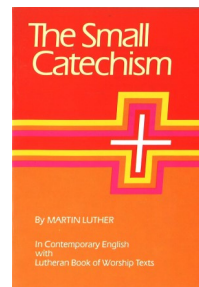
-Steve Liang, President

LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

The Adult Formation continues this fall with a study of the Small Catechism. After worship we will meet in Room C and D for a light lunch and the class, that will end before 1:00 p.m. On coffee hour Sundays (the first Sunday of the month) the class meets after coffee hour.

The schedule:

September 22 - The Commandments
September 29 - Commandments, part 2
October 6 - The Creed
October 13 - Creed, part 2
October 20, - Lord's Prayer
October 27 - Sacraments





Cup of Blessings Dinner

Saturday, November 9, 2024

5pm – 7:30 PM

Again this year, we're excited to host our **Fundraising Dinner** benefiting the West Seattle Food Bank! Our theme for the event is **"Bring a Guest"** – let's make this a memorable event by increasing attendance and sharing the joy of giving.

Key Details:

Fundraiser for: West Seattle Food Bank

Tickets: We are selling advance tickets for \$10 each to help track attendance.

To purchase tickets go to:

[https://westseattlefoodbank.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/CupofBlessings2024/
tabid/1500815/Default.aspx](https://westseattlefoodbank.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/CupofBlessings2024/tabid/1500815/Default.aspx)

-or- Bring a check by the office or drop it in the offering plate.

Dinner: Enjoy a delicious catered dinner from Ivar's!

Guest Speaker: Fran Yeatts of the West Seattle Food Bank will give insights & updates.

Activities:

Dessert Dash: An exciting opportunity to bid on delicious desserts!

Raffle: Win prizes and support a great cause.

Fellowship: A chance to connect and enjoy each other's company.

Our Goals:

Provide an opportunity to engage in meaningful good works, in line with the book of James: "Faith without good works is dead."

Foster a sense of community and fellowship.

Raise crucial funds for the West Seattle Food Bank.

Let's come together to make a difference and have a wonderful time!

In Christ, we can do all things,
Scott & Valerie Schorn

STEWARDSHIP

Galatians 6: 6-10 Supporting the Pastor and the Body of the Church

As fall begins the rain returns to the Pacific Northwest. The parched earth receives the gift of rain, the harvest is brought in, and we are thankful for His bounty. My mind immediately goes to Proverbs 3:9-10 and how we are to present the “first fruits” to honor the Lord. As my mind drifts, I am once again thankful that it is not my sacrifice that is the measure of my salvation but by my baptism and the sacrifice of Christ that I am saved. Thanks be to God.

Even though tithing and giving to the Lord what is already His has been around since Genesis 14, it appears as commands in the Books of Moses and again throughout the Old Testament, I found myself reading the sixth chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Galatians.

Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6: 6-10 (ESV)

Here we, as a people who have heard the Word, are charged with giving to the church to support our pastor. We should be grateful for the great gifts of salvation and thus give generously, so we can continue to hear the Word but also so it can be heard by others as a part of the Great Commission. The Word needs to be heard, and thankfully at our parish the Word comes from a called preacher.

When we called Pastor Hansen, we were unable to support a full-time pastor’s salary. We are not alone. Many churches, as they dwindle in numbers or as costs rise, reduce the scope of their pastoral care or close outright. Many candidates who in years past would have gone into the ministry don’t for financial reasons. Many leave the ministry. Unfortunately, this is not a new thing, Martin Luther in his commentary on Galatians expressed it this way,

“When Satan cannot suppress the preaching of the Gospel by force, he tries to accomplish his purpose by striking the ministers of the Gospel with poverty. He curtails their income to such an extent that they are forced out of the ministry because they cannot live by the Gospel. Without ministers to proclaim the Word of God the people go wild like savage beasts.”

-Luther, Martin. *Commentary on the Epistle to the Galatians*. 1535.
Translator: Theodore Graebner

We should strive by increased membership and increased giving to re-establish a full-time pastoral position. We should strive so that just compensation is given to those who tend His flock.

(continued next page)

It is not all about the pastor. The staff needs to be compensated for their tireless efforts. The church needs funds to function so that the Word can be heard in a manner that we agreed to in our mission statement. We will also be hiring a new organist. We were blessed with the amazing gifts and talents of Andrew King for many years. We will not be able to replace his dedication to First Lutheran and to the faith, but if we wish to have anywhere near similar quality of organist candidates, we as a congregation should expect to pay for those musical talents. That will need to come from increased giving.

As Paul continues in his letter we are called to “do good to everyone”. Our parish support of El Camino de Emaus, the Compass Center, Lutheran World Relief, and the West Seattle Food Bank, among others, relies on our giving back His gifts.

So as the rains come, please consider turning away from “sowing earthy things” and increase your support for our parish and the Holy Church so that we and others can “reap from the Spirit”!

-Matthew Kahn, Church Council



Our Fall Pledge Drive Is Starting This Month

On Sunday, October 13th, 2025 Pledge Cards will be included in your worship service bulletin. Prayerfully consider your new pledge for the coming year. Your completed pledge card can be returned to the Financial Secretary by placing it in the offering plate on Sunday *or* emailing your pledge information to tkorsmo@flcws.org. There will be extra blank pledge cards at the back of the narthex if you need one.

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, Eileen and 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, Marilyn Jovanavich, the family of Andrew King, the family of Robert Ayer, the Matthew and Dana Kahn family, and the Tim and Gina Allen family, on the death of Tim's father, Darrell.

Pray for the homebound that the light of Christ may give them joy: Joan Olson, Mona Ayer, Jeannine Lingle, Robert Schorn, Lou & Lori Landino, CJ Christian, & Melanie Johnson.

Pray for our bishops Elizabeth Eaton & Shelley Bryan Wee, our pastor Bryon Hansen, our choirmaster Dean Hard, 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 their work.

Pray that God would give us hearts to find joy in service and faithful stewardship. Pray that God would work within us to become a good steward of our 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 God will show mercy to 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 us through the lives of the saints: Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, October 4, 1226, Theodore Fleidner, renewer of society, October 4, 1864; Massie L. Kennard, renewer of the church, October 10, 1996; St Luke, Evangelist; James of Jerusalem, Martyr; St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles.

A Prayer of Francis of Assisi

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union;

where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 87

MEMORIAL SERVICE *for* ANDREW JAMES KING

Saturday, October 19th, 1:00 p.m.



Andy King touched the lives of many people both within and outside this congregation. He was well known and respected among his musical peers and at FLCWS. Andy has been the organist/cantor at FLCWS for 50 years. Lorraine and Andy have been very dedicated to Christ and the ministry of FLCWS. Children David and Elizabeth were formed in this community, including the praise of God in song through the children's choir and chancel choir. Andy left his imprint in many ways at First Lutheran. Besides his immense musical talents, he and Lorraine have been very active in all aspects of parish life. Through his words and deeds, Andy has had a tremendous influence on the lives of many in our congregation. Prelude music begins at 12:30. The funeral liturgy will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, and will conclude with the inurnment in the Chapel of the Resurrection. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

EL CAMINO DE EMAUS UPDATE

On October 1, Rev. Zulma Tifre becomes the half-time interim pastor at El Camino de Emaus in Burlington, WA for the coming year (contracted through July 2025). Pr. Tifre has been doing pulpit supply for three out of four Sundays since March. This half-time call expands her ministry with the congregation. She will offer leadership on Sundays and also work on outreach, pastoral care and administration. She is the ordained pastor of First United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon. This ecumenical synergy is being made possible through the help of Rev. Charis Weathers from Burlington Lutheran, who will mentor Pr. Tifre in ELCA practices. Burlington Lutheran has been a long-time partner parish with El Camino.



In other El Camino news, two El Camino members were able to attend Gethsemane Lutheran in Seattle on August 18 for worship, lunch, and conversation about Hispanic ministries in our Synod. They were delighted to be part of their bilingual service led jointly by Pr. Salvador Cossio of Grace Lutheran in Des Moines and Pr Joanne Engquist of Gethsemane. It was particularly interesting to learn that Gethsemane started 140 years ago as a Swedish-only service and now enjoys great diversity, and heartwarming to hear that Gethsemane would enjoy joining an El Camino service in the future. First Lutheran also has long history of supporting El Camino's ministry, and part of the offerings received at Pr. Bryon's investiture were shared there.

UPCOMING FESTIVALS

Reformation Sunday, October 27

This month we celebrate the Festival of the Reformation on October 27, the Sunday nearest October 31 when Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg castle church door in 1517. This event symbolizes the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. On this day we give thanks for this witness and we view it as a call for continuing church reform. *Ecclesia semper reformanda est*: the church is always in need of reform.

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



All Saints Sunday, November 3



On All Saints Day, November 1, the church commemorates all Christians who have died, both the famous and forgotten. Particular saints are remembered on the day of their death. This day encapsulates all Christians who have been commended to God's everlasting care. Not all saints are alike. Spiritual gifts are various. Some may have mystical experiences; other do not. Some are busy working in the world while other saints do not have the energy for that. One saint may uphold sacred tradition and others are innovative. There is no rule about what a saint should do or be. Each life is unique and purposeful, part of God's design. We were made saints in our baptism, not because we're perfect but because God keeps us in his grace.

Almighty God, whose people are knit together in one holy church, the body of Christ our Lord: Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME PASTOR CHELSEA GLOBE: While Pastor Bryon is away on October 6th, Pastor Chelsea Globe, Lutheran Campus Pastor at the University of Washington will preside and preach. Pastor Chelsea will also teach the adult class following worship and coffee fellowship, introducing the section on the Creed in Luther's Small Catechism.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Join us after services Sunday, *October 6*, for an informal coffee hour. Goodies this month are courtesy of the Douglass and Loftus families. (Sign up for future months is in the hall outside room C.)

ADULT FORMATION RETURNS: This time around we are studying Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*. Join us in Room C & D. On the Sundays of Coffee hour we will meet afterward. Otherwise, we will meet after worship with lunch available.

HOLY EUCHARIST – All baptized Christians are welcome to the Lord's Table. If you are not able to walk up to communion but would like to receive, please contact one of the ushers **before** the liturgy.

FOOD BANK COLLECTION: The West Seattle Food Bank box and all collections are in room C. Suggested Food Bank donations for October are canned tuna or chicken, mayonnaise or olive oil and crackers. Compass Housing Alliance is in need of socks for men or women for the winter months. 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, Mary's Place, and Westside Neighbors (American Legion Hall) Shelter).

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

CHURCH COUNCIL RETREAT: Over All Saints weekend, November 1 through 3, the church council will meet for retreat on Friday evening and during the day on Saturday. The culmination is at worship on All Saints Sunday. The retreat leader is Pastor Ivar Hillesland, an ELCA Pastor who works for the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia where he heads the College for Congregational Development. He will lead the council as we look ahead to the life and mission of FLCWS and he will preach on Sunday.

MINI-RETREAT FOLLOWUP: If you attended September's *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made* mini-retreat, you identified your passions and talents, and how they might match up with parish activities. So, you may be contacted by the church member responsible for a particular activity, or in turn, are invited to contact the office to be put in touch with them at 206-935-6530 or casey@flcws.org.

Sharing Warmth



Each year **The Clothesline** provides thousands of coats, jackets, mittens, hats and socks to families and individuals in need of warmth.

Thank you for donating your gently used winter wear.



FALL WISH LIST FROM WEST SEATTLE'S ONLY SHELTER



(WSB file photo)

Volunteers and donations power the **Westside Neighbors Shelter** at the American Legion Hall. Here are items that shelter operator **Keith Hughes** says are most needed right now:

- Granulated Sugar – 5# or 10# bags
- Powdered coffee creamer
- Ground coffee – 2# / 3# cans
- Herbal Tea Bags
- Pancake Mix – Family size
- Pancake syrup
- Cornbread Mix
- Vegetable oil
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Dishwashing Soap
- Laundry Detergent Soap Pods

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OCTOBER 2024

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