



# THE MESSENGER

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

## THE PSALMS: HYMN BOOK AND PRAYER BOOK OF THE SCRIPTURES

In the book of Ephesians, the Apostle Paul admonishes us, “Be filled with the Spirit, as you sing songs and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts.” (Ephesians 5:18b-19, *NRSV*.) Singing is a natural expression and response of faith to what God has done for us.

The earliest songs of our faith come from the Old Testament, which contains a number of examples. The song of Moses in Exodus begins, “I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and its rider he has thrown into the sea...” (Exodus 15:1-18, *NRSV*.) The song of Hannah in 1 Samuel begins, “My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God...” (1 Samuel 2:1-10, *NRSV*.)

The Book of Psalms is the cornerstone of the songs of the Old Testament, containing 150 psalms divided into five “books,” each concluding with a doxology such as, “Blessed be the Lord” or “Praise the Lord.” Among the psalms are songs of instruction, historical remembrance, petition, lament, and praise, often combining several types in an individual psalm. In an overview of their history, Carl Schalk observes: “Written over the centuries and collected for use in the post-exilic temple, the collection as it has come to us was finally compiled and edited about the third century BCE. It is clear that these psalms were intended for singing in temple worship – and later in the Jewish synagogue where they were interspersed between the recitation of Hebrew Scriptures – not, as is often the case today, for private devotional reading.” (Carl F. Schalk, *Singing the Faith*. St Louis: Morning Star Music Publishers, 2020, pp. 4-5.)

From the early centuries of Christendom, the church adopted the psalms as a basic component of worship, and a sign of continuity with its Jewish roots. In some eras, their usage has been reduced to only a verse or two. With the publication of *Lutheran Book of Worship* in 1978, the psalms regained their rightful place as a core part of worship in Lutheran churches in North America. The version included in *LBW* is from the *Book of Common Prayer*, a translation particularly appropriate for singing. Unfortunately, only the psalms for Sunday worship were included in the pew edition of *LBW*, reducing its usefulness for daily liturgies and private prayer.

The psalms have also become models for later Christian hymns, notably two well-known psalm paraphrases by Martin Luther. Psalm 46 was the basis for Luther’s most famous hymn, *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (*LBW* 228 and 229.) Psalm 130 became the basis for his hymn, *Out of the Depths I Cry to You* (*LBW* 295.)

The Book of Psalms concludes with a resounding psalm of praise ending, “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Hallelujah!” (Psalm 150:6, *LBW*.)

-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

# LIBRARY RESOURCES

Will you be out of town some of this summer?

*Pandemic Sermons* by Rev. Ronald Marshall is a source of sermons based on the very Scripture lessons we currently read on Sundays. Our library has a copy.

**Sundays.** But which sermon matches which Sunday? June 4<sup>th</sup> is Trinity Sunday, and the matching sermon begins on page 89. The next sermon matches the following Sunday, and so on for the rest of the month.

Out of town in July? July 2<sup>nd</sup> is the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost, and that sermon starts on page 107. Next Sunday, next sermon, etc.

Surprise. August starts out as expected, but then has a wrinkle. August 6<sup>th</sup> is the 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost, and that sermon starts on page 135. Wrinkle: the next sermon in the book is for Mary, Mother of Our Lord, and this year that observation is on August 20<sup>th</sup>, rather than the 13<sup>th</sup>. For the 13<sup>th</sup> you might use the sermon starting on page 145. Then we are back on track: August 27<sup>th</sup>, the 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost, matches the sermon starting on page 151. Next Sunday, next sermon.

These sermons are also available on the FLCWS website.

**Daily.** For your private devotions, the library has copies of *Day by Day We Magnify Thee: Daily Readings for the Entire Year*. These brief (less than one page) devotions are selections from the writings of Martin Luther. Brief, but substantive enough to ponder all day, or longer. I find page 95 comes to mind nearly every day.

This collection of daily readings was first published in London in 1946, and in North America in 1950. Truly a classic of devotional meditations.

If you have the 1982 Fortress Press edition (now out-of-print) (a used copy of this gem was available on Amazon for \$70.00!), the reading for Trinity Sunday (June 4<sup>th</sup>) is on page 227. This edition has the Bible verses in the *King James* translation.

If you have the 2008 revised edition from Augsburg Fortress, the reading for Trinity Sunday is on page 229. This edition uses the *New Revised Standard Version* and adds a prayer at the bottom of the page. We do not yet have copies of this edition in the library.

-Connie Baker,  
Librarian



# CALLING ALL PROSPECTIVE PAINTERS & HELPERS...

*Here we go again.....SATURDAY, June 3 (10am) & SUNDAY, June 4 (noon)* two more 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 and help us continue the job of repainting the inside of the parsonage. We hope to gather around 10 am and work as long as we can, and then again after church on Sunday. Bring some snacks, fruit, and/or beverages to share. **Sign-up sheet is posted on the hall bulletin board.**

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

*And speaking of many hands.....*a thousand thanks to the last group of hardworking painters who came on April 30, May 6, and May 7!!! Patty Loftus and son Eric Loftus, Ting Ting Chang, David and Jennifer King and Jennifer's sister, Laura Combs, Peter and Janine Douglass, Tyler Schorn, Scott Schorn, Lorraine and Andrew King, and Matthew Kahn and his son Max Kahn. You were all amazing, fun, and hard working. Awesome attitudes too.

More info needed? Contact Steve Liang 206-245-3124.



## MONTHLY COFFEE HOUR

Since January we have been gathering for an informal coffee hour in room C after the service on the first Sunday of each month. We thank Bob and Connie Baker for initiating these gatherings.

We need others in the congregation to share in bringing treats for the coffee hours. June is already arranged, but the months thereafter are available for you to sign up. Please find the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hall by room C.

Making the coffee for each Coffee Hour Sunday has generously been taken on by Teri Korsmo for the time being, and we thank her for that.



# 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*

# Saint Nicholas Faire Dinner

**Saturday, October 21st, 2023**

This year we are planning to have a Congregational Dinner on October 21<sup>st</sup>. This will still be a fundraiser. We will ask for donations, *benefitting the West Seattle Food Bank*.

We are changing the name of the dinner to:

## Cup of Blessings Dinner

We plan to:

- ◆ Most of all, provide you a venue to do good works. As Martin Luther said: “Faith without good works is dead.”
- ◆ Provide time for fellowship
- ◆ Provide a catered dinner (The menu has not been decided yet)
- ◆ Have a guest speaker, Fran Yeatts, from the **West Seattle Food Bank** (she has already accepted invitation)
- ◆ Ensure good time for everyone

We will ask for a free will offering for the cost of the dinner.

*Please RSVP for the dinner.  
The sign-up sheet is posted on the  
Parish House hallway bulletin board.*

THE MESSENGER  
SEPTEMBER 2023



First Lutheran Church of West Seattle  
4105 California Avenue S.W.  
Seattle, WA 98116-4101