



THE MESSENGER

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEST SEATTLE

(206) 935-6530

www.flcws.org

September 2024

PASTOR'S PAGE – *Gifts Galore*

The Summer Olympics are a big deal in our home. We are practically glued to the TV set. I am in awe of the athletic prowess of Simone Biles, Katie Ledecky, the basketball and volleyball teams from various countries, and so much more. I am reminded again what amazing things humans are able to do with their bodies and minds. The words of Psalm 134:19 ring true – we are “fearfully and wonderfully made.”

Our kick-off to the Fall schedule will highlight how we are fearfully and wonderfully made. We will not have an Olympic competition but we will discover again how each of us is endowed with unique gifts. God's people are “fearfully and wonderfully made.” God has gifted each of us with unique talents that we are called to use in the Christian community and in love of neighbor.

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 15**. We will have an all congregational lunch with smoked salmon compliments of Steve Liang. This is a potluck, so bring a dish to share (sign up sheet is on the hall bulletin board). Lunch will be followed by a mini-retreat for the congregation led by spiritual director, Nancy Monelli. She will help us identify and affirm our individual gifts, how they are used in our individual ministries and contribute to the overall ministry of FLCWS. It will be an opportunity to connect a little deeper with other members and friends of FLCWS.

You will find more information in this issue of *The Messenger*. I look forward to this day and the adult formation following worship that begins the next Sunday, September 22.

I am filled with hope and joy as we transition into the Fall. You are blessed with an abundance of gifts. Let's move forward with the Spirit's guidance and with the ministries God has entrusted to us.

God's Peace,
Pastor Bryon Hansen

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is with deep sadness that we come together to honor the memory of Andrew King. For 50 years, organist/cantor Andy was an integral part of our worship and church family, serving with unwavering dedication and love. His contributions and presence were a cornerstone of our community, and his legacy will remain with us always.

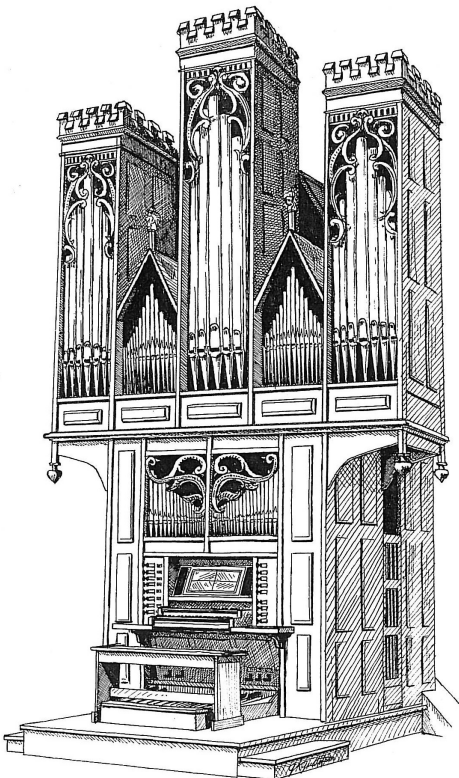
In this time of mourning, let us remember the strength and unity of our church family. Together, we will continue pursuing our mission with the same passion and commitment that Andy exemplified.

I have known Andy for 25 years through my friendship with his son, David King. Many hours were spent in the King family's basement, where Andy and Lorraine always made me feel welcomed and well-fed. When I began attending the church during college, I also joined the choir. Each early Sunday morning, seeing Andy rehearsing on the organ before the choir arrived was a cherished part of my Sunday routine. For those who had the pleasure of watching him play the organ up close in the gallery, it was clear that Andy never lost his concentration, regardless of the distractions around him. His movements and sways were a testament to his deep connection with the music he played.

Andy enriched our choir rehearsals with a diverse range of music selections from many great composers. He had a particular fondness for the works of Carl Schalk, and his admiration for Schalk's compositions was evident in his choice to end choir rehearsals with excerpts from his writings read aloud.

Andy was like a father to me, and his absence leaves a significant void in my life and in our church community. I will miss him greatly, as I know many of you will.

With heartfelt sympathy,
-Steve Liang, President



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

...to everyone who has expressed their sympathy and condolences to me and our family. It means a great deal. It is a very difficult time for all of us, probably because it happened too quickly and at a time when Andy was getting better test results. As a family, we decided that we needed some time and space between Andy's death and the memorial service where we will all celebrate his gifts of music and service. **Saturday, October 19, 2024 at 1:00pm** is the date and time of his memorial Eucharist liturgy. Paul Olson, a longtime friend of ours, will be coming from New York City to play the organ in Andy's honor. We hope the memorial service reflects all that Andy has given to First Lutheran over the last 50 years.

Gratefully,
Lorraine,
David and Jennifer,
Liz and Justin

Cup of Blessings Dinner

Saturday, November 9, 2024

5pm – 7:30 PM

Again this year, we're excited to host the *Cup of Blessings Dinner*, our fundraiser 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:** This year, we are selling tickets to help track attendance.
More information on how to purchase tickets will be available soon.
- **Dinner:** Enjoy a delicious catered dinner from Ivar's!
- **Guest Speaker:** Fran Yeatts from the West Seattle Food Bank will share insights and 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 that "Faith without good works is dead."
- Foster a sense of community and fellowship.
- Raise crucial funds for the West Seattle Food Bank.
- Invite the wider community of West Seattle to join us.

Let's come together to make a difference and have a wonderful time! We look forward to seeing you there!

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

STEWARDSHIP

*“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

Time and again, when thinking about Stewardship in the church, and giving in the church, the words of Psalm 24 remind us that while we think we are in control of, owners of, and creators of our own wealth, our own time, and our own gifts, that thinking is wrong – the Lord is in control, is the owner of, and the creator of each of us, each of our gifts, and all of our time. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 reminds us that we are *“a temple of the Holy Spirit ... which [we] have from God, and that [we] are not [our] own...”* and that we are to *“therefore glorify God”* through the gifts and talents we have been given. The periodic reminders we receive that we are not in control of our own being, wealth, or gifts can be extremely painful. None of us likes to feel that we cannot control our own circumstances, our own beings, or our own economic situations. God reminds us of this always to reinforce our dependence solely on Him for all that we have, in order to draw us closer to Him.

Sometimes we restrict Stewardship in the church solely to giving, but it extends far beyond giving. It also extends to how we spend our time and how we use our gifts and talents, all of which have been given to us by God. We didn’t generate them ourselves, so we should use them to the praise of Him who did. For all of us, this means giving to the church to support our mission of proclaiming the Gospel through Word and Sacrament. But for each of us, this may also mean different things – for some it may mean serving on Altar Guild, for some it may mean serving on our church council, for others it may mean becoming a choir member or an usher, and for others it may mean spending time volunteering in the community at our extended ministry partners, or some combination of all of these.

When we think about Stewardship, we should give joyfully in thanksgiving to God for the gifts He has bestowed on us in Christ and in our talents and resources, because, as 2 Corinthians 9:7-8 reminds us, *“God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance so that ... you may share abundantly.”* Those gifts are not given to be hidden away – they are given so that they might be shared and used for God’s purposes in the world. Thanks be to God for all of His gifts, that we may each use them in our own way to glorify Him at First Lutheran Church of West Seattle and in all facets of each of our lives.

-David King,
FLCWS Church Council

✠ 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 & 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, and the Matthew & Dana Kahn family.

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: Nikolai Grundtvig, renewer of the church (Sept. 2, 1872); John Chryostom, early Christian preacher (Sept. 13, 407); Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen (Sept. 17, 1179); Dag Hammerskjöld, renewer of society (Sept. 18, 1961); Jerome, teacher, translator of the Bible (September 30, 420); and St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist.

A Treasury of Prayers

Holy Spirit, making life alive, moving in all things,
root of all created being,
cleansing the cosmos of every impurity,
effacing guilt, anointing wounds.
You are lustrous and praiseworthy life,
you waken and reawaken everything that is.

-Hildegard of Bingen

FALL KICK OFF

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made:

Acknowledging Your Gifts and Embracing Your Call

FLCWS will be holding a Mini Retreat for discerning your spiritual gifts and discovering how you can use those gifts to serve God within your family, community, and the world.



The gifts of the Holy Spirit express themselves in different ways during the different seasons of our lives. Whatever time of life you find yourself in now, this mini retreat is designed to help you get in touch with those gifts and the call to use them in your particular place and amid your unique circumstances.

With the aid of Bible study, small group sharing, and interactive experiences, this mini retreat will help you explore your gifts and the ways in which you are being called to share them. You will also learn about specific opportunities for sharing your gifts in your congregation and the in wider community as well.

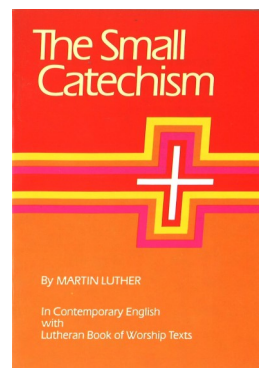
Mark your calendars for *Sunday, September 15. Following the Sunday liturgy, until around 3:30, in the Parish Hall.* This mini retreat will be facilitated by Nancy Monelli, DMin of Oasis Ministries NW.

We will begin with a potluck lunch – Steve Liang will be grilling salmon! You bring the rest – sign-up for a sweet, savory or salad dish on the bulletin board in the hallway outside room C.

A GUIDE FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

The Small Catechism

Adult formation is back! The response to the study of the Easter Gospel readings last spring was a success. We want to return to this format. On the Sundays of Coffee hour we will meet afterward. Otherwise, we will meet after worship with lunch food available. Free will donations are welcome. This time around we will study Martin Luther's Small Catechism. Copies of the Catechism will be provided as well as some supplemental material. The class will run no later than 1:00 p.m. We will explore Luther's interpretations of the Commandments, Creed, Prayer, and Sacraments. All are welcome and newcomers are especially encouraged and welcomed to participate. Join us in Room C & D beginning September 22, after worship.



A TIMELY REMINDER

from the Facilities Committee...

In the June Messenger a list of small projects that need to be done around the church was published. Volunteers are needed to keep our facility and grounds looking cared for. Sadly, only one person volunteered for planting blooming annuals in the courtyard garden pots.

Yes, everyone is very busy and we all have many commitments. As a community, First Lutheran Church of West Seattle has been through many challenges over the past four years. All that has happened has stretched the staff to their limits and required that they take on additional responsibilities. This means that we, the membership, need to do more to share the load. So please see if you can find even a half and hour or an hour once a month that you can share with the church to help the exterior looking its best. If volunteers do not come forward we will need to hire the work out.

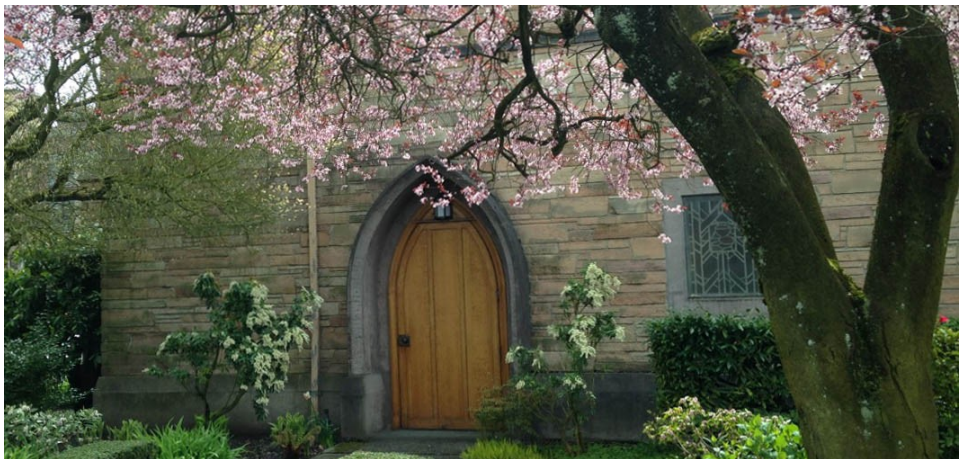
WEEDING: Lounge courtyard, both in the garden beds and on the concrete patio
South courtyard between the parish house and the Osborne condo
On the concrete in and around the parking lot and parking strip
Along the alley by the back of the church

MOSS REMOVAL: Lounge courtyard, especially by the SW church door and stairwell
By sacristy door on the north side of the church
Kitchen stairwell
Sidewalks in the north garden
East entrances to church and parish house

FLOWER PLANTERS: Two garden pots by chapel door need plants

Just call the church office and let Casey know how you can help. Many thanks!!!!

-Lorraine King, for the Facilities Committee



SEPTEMBER FEASTS

St. Michael and All Angels

This year, this feast of St. Michael and All Angels falls on a Sunday. On September 29 we will celebrate the festival of St. Michael and All Angels. The archangel Michael is often pictured as a prince or general in the heavenly army, defeating the dragon that represents the evil one. This festival had its origins in the fifth century in Rome. The focus of this day has broadened beyond Michael to include thanksgiving for all angels who are seen as messengers of God's word and will.

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of angels and mortals. Mercifully grant that, as your holy angels always serve and worship you in heaven, so by your appointment they may help and defend us here on earth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



In addition to St Michael and all Angels, these commemorations occur in September:

Holy Cross Day, September 14



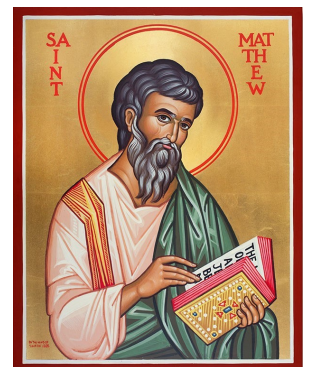
According to legend, the Empress Helena excavated “the cross” of Jesus at Golgotha in 326. This laid the groundwork for a new church. In 335, Emperor Constantine, Helena's son, dedicated the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on September 14. This became the fixed date for the annual honoring of the cross of Christ. This festival praises the surprising wisdom of the cross, and that instrument of torture flowered into a tree of life.

Almighty God, your son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist, September 21

Matthew, a tax collector, was called by Jesus to follow him. This collaborator with the Roman Empire converted to serve as a traveling apostle to Jesus. The first Gospel became associated with Matthew. Likely written in Syria around 80 for an audience of Jewish Christians, the Gospel of Mark was one of his sources.

Almighty God, your Son our Savior called a despised collector of taxes to become one of his apostles. Help us, like Matthew, to respond to the transforming call of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOOD BANK COLLECTION: The West Seattle Food Bank box and all collections are in room C. Suggested Food Bank donations for September are soups or other canned or boxed instant or one meal options. 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).

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.

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>

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Join us after services Sunday, *September 1*, for an informal coffee hour. Goodies today are courtesy of Carol Nelson. (Sign up for future months is in the hall outside room C.)

FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE: A mini-retreat for discerning your spiritual gifts and discovering how you can use those gifts to serve God within your family, community and the world. *Sunday, September 15*, following the Sunday liturgy and potluck lunch.

MID-WEEK EUCHARIST begins again on *September 18*. We will meet in the chapel at 11:45am every Wednesday.

ADULT FORMATION RETURNS: This time around we will study Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*. Join us in Room C & D beginning *September 22*. On the Sundays of Coffee hour we will meet afterward. Otherwise, we will meet after worship with lunch available.

THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2024

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

MID-WEEK EUCHARIST

Beginning on September 18, FLCWS will be returning to a midweek Eucharist every week on

Wednesdays at 11:45 a.m.

We meet in the Chapel for a quiet service, usually without music, that will run between 20 and 30 minutes. If Sunday poses a problem for getting to church, this is a marvelous opportunity for you. Also, if you come on Sundays and would like to come, that is great too! All are welcome.

The Wednesday midday Eucharist promises to provide a prayerful oasis in the middle of the week.

