



THE MESSENGER

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEST SEATTLE

(206) 935-6530

www.flcws.org

November 2024

PASTOR'S PAGE – *Giving Thanks*

We observe an annual ritual at our home on the Thanksgiving holiday. Before we pray over the food, we ask each person around the table to identify those people, places or things for which they are grateful. These often include things from the previous year. It is a rich time.

I'm not sure what I will say when it's my turn, though I suspect that I will name First Lutheran as one of the great treasures for which I give thanks. My gratitude extends to so much – working with a great staff and church council, beautiful worship grounded in the mystery of God, being among delightful people, and the privilege of pastoring a Christ centered community. These are real blessings for me and I imagine at Thanksgiving time or any time you give thanks for the blessings in your life.

We often give thanks for such gifts, but I wonder what it would look like to give thanks for those people or events that were not terribly delightful or downright sad. I know this sounds morose but what I'm trying to say is that the spirit of gratitude can encompass all of life, remembering that God is present in both the lovely places and the broken places.

There's a great prayer practice from the Christian tradition called the *Examen*. It is especially useful at the end of the day. Through this method of prayer you think through and examine the events of the day and then you ask, "For what am I most grateful?" and "For what am I least grateful?" I find this practice to be life-giving as it helps me recognize God in all things. The things for which I am least grateful are often experiences that gave me little to no pleasure but I will name them as falling under the grateful category anyway, knowing that God was there and that these experiences may often teach me something new or expand my heart and awareness of God's love.

This is a busy month – besides the Thanksgiving holiday, we will celebrate All Saints Sunday, hold a national election, enjoy the Cup of Blessings Dinner, offer our 2025 pledge cards, and celebrate Christ the King Sunday.

That's a lot! Maybe you'll want to make the most of these days by using the *Examen* or another practice of prayer to help you consider the active presence of God in all of life.

Peace,
Pastor Bryon Hansen

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Friends and family paid their respects at the October 19th memorial of Andrew King, Cantor and Organist of First Lutheran Church of West Seattle for the past 50 years. Our church halls were filled with the beautiful music and hymns that Andrew loved so much. It was a great service and reception.

Congregation members in attendance during the coffee fellowship on October 6th were given a walkthrough preview of the new website. The new website was received positively. The launch date for the website has not yet been determined. An announcement of the launch will be made at a later date. A big thank you to the members of the ad hoc technology committee for getting the new website created.

Choir rehearsals have resumed as of October 24th. A substitute organist has been identified to accompany the choir during rehearsals and conduct services. We are thankful to have the choir going into the Advent season. Please direct all inquiries and questions to Choirmaster Dean Hard.

Circle the date of November 9th on your calendars for the Cup of Blessing Dinner. The time of the event will be 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM. Online tickets are being sold to help track attendance. The dinner is a fundraiser benefiting the West Seattle Food Bank. Come out to enjoy an evening together with good food and company. Please direct all inquiries and questions to Scott Schorn.

As we near the end of 2024, I invite each of you to reflect on the significant milestones our church has achieved this year. With the completion of the Parsonage remodel, Pastor Bryon Hansen's investiture, crucial repairs to our facilities, and the ongoing search for a new organist, it's been a year of both challenges and blessings.

As you review your giving for the year, I encourage you, if possible, to consider an additional contribution. This will ensure we can continue to care for our facilities and maintain the quality of worship we all cherish. Your support is vital to sustaining our church's mission and the future of our community. Thank you for being part of this journey.

-Steve Liang, President

THANK YOU!

A special THANK YOU!! to a few people who stepped up to the plate and volunteered to help clean up and beautify the church grounds. First, Sonja Clemente, planted the flower boxes in the Lounge courtyard. Then Lynn Hopson, put shade loving plants in the 2 long pots by the chapel door. And finally, Dale Korsmo and Louis Petersen scraped off big hunks of moss from the concrete surfaces and power washed all around the church, saving us a whole bundle of money! So we are very appreciative of this wonderful help to preserve and beautify our church.

-Lorraine King
Facilities Chair



Cup of Blessings Dinner

Saturday, November 9, 2024

5pm – 7:30 PM

Again this year, we're excited to host the **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>

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

✠ 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, Peter and Dana Morrison, Paula and The Rev. Douglas Lindsay, Shirley Graham, Nora Vanhala, Connie Baker, and Don Minter and children,

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, and Margaret Douglass.

Pray for our bishops Elizabeth Eaton & Shelley Bryan Wee, our pastor Bryon Hansen, our choir-master 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: Søren Kierkegaard, teacher 1855; Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, 1748; St Andrew, Apostle

Thanksgiving

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything thy goodness sends.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

ADULT FORMATION CLASS

After concluding our study of Luther's *Small Catechism*, we will be taking a break for a few weeks. The class will resume on Sunday, November 24th when Pastor Hansen will present a recap of his recent Civil Rights pilgrimage that began in Atlanta and culminated in Memphis. During the Sundays in Advent we will spend two weeks exploring the question, "what are we waiting for?" and then we will look at "An Adult Christ at Christmas." The latter is based on the book with the same title by New Testament scholar Raymond Brown.

Here is the schedule: November 24 - Reflections from the Civil Rights Pilgrimage
December 1 and 8 – What are we waiting for?
December 15 – An Adult Christ at Christmas

MUSIC NORTHWEST PRESENTS

to the invisible listener

based on texts of Soren Kierkegaard
(Seattle premiere)
in honor of Rev. Ron Marshall and
Cantor Andrew King.

Sunday, Dec. 8, 2 pm

Megan Renae Parker, soprano
Mara Finkelstein, cello
Jane Harty, piano

Music of Bach, Rachmaninov,
Andre Previn, and Jacob Beranek

Tickets: \$20 (Gen); \$18 (Sr) at
www.musicnorthwest.org

Students age 26 and under FREE, but
must be reserved in advance by con-
tacting Music Northwest
206 937 9792.

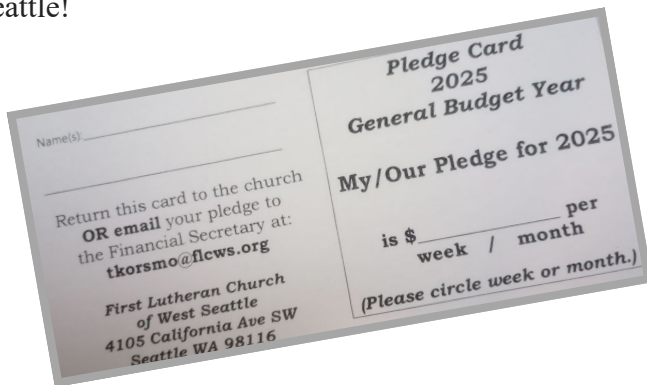


STEWARDSHIP

First, a thank-you to the many members of our congregation who pledge their financial support every year. Thank you for your commitment to First Lutheran Church of West Seattle. Thank you as well for pledging your support in a way that helps our Church Council plan the next year's budget.

And another thank-you to all the members who bring our programs to life. From extended ministry to worship and music, many hands make light work, as they say, and we are truly blessed when so many members participate in so many ways.

In the bulletin on October 13 we were provided with pledge cards for the coming year. I hope everyone will take time to fill one out and return it either in the offering plate, by mail, or by notifying our Financial Secretary by email. Thanks again for all you do for First Lutheran of West Seattle!



-Carol Nelson
Church Council

CHOIR SCHEDULE OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2024

There has been much planning and hoping since Andy's death in August, how and when we could have the choir resume singing for Sunday liturgies. Since we have had a variety of substitute organists, that has made it even more difficult to plan. In the next few months, we will be blessed to have Lola Wolf regularly serve as our organ substitute. This opens the door to resuming choir rehearsals. Having a regular organist on Sundays will make it easier for the choir to resume singing most Sundays. Lola has also agreed to attend Thursday evening choir rehearsals. Choir rehearsals began Thursday, October 24. The choir will sing on All Saints', November 3, and Christ the King, November 24, as well as the 4 Sundays in Advent. Plans for Christmas are also in the works. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we move forward finding a replacement for Andy. No small task. And hope that having the choir back on Sundays will enhance our worship.

-Lorraine King
Deo Gloria Cantores

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUEST PREACHER: Our guest preacher on November 3rd, All Saints Sunday, will be Pastor Ivar Hillesland. In the two days prior he will have led your church council in retreat. Pastor Hillesland will also speak at the coffee hour on All Saints.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Join us after services Sunday, *November 3*, for an informal coffee hour.

ADULT FORMATION RETURNS: November 24. Join us in Room C & D. 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 donations for November/December are non-perishable holiday foods: potatoes, gravy, turkey, vegetables, baking ingredients, etc. 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.

2025 PLEDGE CARDS: New pledge cards have been distributed. Please prayerfully consider your new pledge for next year. Your completed pledge card can be returned to the Financial Secretary by placing it in the offering plate or emailing your pledge information to tkorsmo@flcws.org. We will celebrate our giving of pledges on *Sunday, November 10*. The Gospel for that day is the offering of the poor widow.

DEO GLORIA CANTORES: *Welcome Back!* 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 at the church office.

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NOVEMBER 2024

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

EXTENDED MINISTRIES

Extended Ministries is reaching out with an opportunity to serve our community by supporting two vital organizations: West Seattle Clothesline and Mary's Place. Both of these groups provide essential resources to those in need and with your help.

We are currently seeking volunteers who can assist with transporting donated items to these locations. Your involvement would be a tremendous support in ensuring that clothing and supplies reach individuals and families who are experiencing hardship.

If you feel called to participate in this service, please reach out to Tyler Schorn at tyler.schorn@gmail.com for more details on what these volunteer opportunities are and how you can get involved.

Thank you for considering this chance to serve and bless others through your time and compassion.

Blessings,
Tyler Schorn & Gina Allen

