



THE MESSENGER

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEST SEATTLE
(206) 935-6530 www.flcws.org April 2025

Pastor's Page – One Great Mystery

Three great days are at the heart and center of the Christian year. Taken together, the liturgies of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter are really one unified liturgy, because the death and resurrection of Christ is one mystery.

As we once again prepare for the great feast of Easter, I pray we will enter into this one mystery of death and resurrection with open hearts and minds. Through the celebration of these mysteries, Christ touches us, changes us, and even transforms us. When we were baptized, we were joined to this one saving mystery and our lives as followers of Jesus is nothing less than a daily dying and rising.



Baptism will be central to the Easter Vigil this year. Several are preparing for baptism and several others are preparing to affirm their baptism. Welcome these new members to First with open arms.

I may sound like the proverbial broken record but it cannot be said enough – ***your Baptism is a big deal and if you're already baptized, your baptism is a big deal.*** This is most evident at the Easter Vigil when we pass with Christ from death to life. On this most holy night, women and men and children are washed with these saving waters, and all of us renew our baptism. Joined to Christ, we live in a pattern of dying and rising all our days.

As the preface for Lent in the Great Thanksgiving states, “prepare with joy for the paschal feast.”

Peace,
Pastor Hansen

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The change of seasons from winter to spring always brings new life, vibrant colors, the sounds of nature, and longer days. I hope everyone has had a meaningful Lent and is looking forward to the Easter season. Over the past year, I've noticed many new faces on Sunday mornings. My own situation often has me worshipping from the nursery, only briefly stepping in to receive the Eucharist with my children in tow. This reminds me of when I first joined the church.

At that time, many in the congregation might have only seen me if they looked toward the choir gallery. There weren't many social opportunities like coffee hours, and adult formation classes were held early in the morning, during the same time the choir rehearsed. Some may not have even known my name for years, had it not been for my picture and name in the church directory.

Our congregation has long been home to generations of families who have attended since the church's founding. The presence of new faces among us is encouraging, and the council has worked hard to improve our outreach efforts. Initiatives like our new website, posts on the West Seattle Blog, outreach through neighborhood-based websites, and postcards to new neighbors all help in welcoming others to our church. However, the most important factor in bringing people back is the warmth and kindness they experience through our greetings and conversations. Newcomers will see that our devotion to liturgy, Lutheran confessions, and faith in Christ are what strengthen our community.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of your church and the opportunity to gather as your people. We pray that you continue to grow and strengthen our community, opening hearts and minds to your message of love and grace. May your Spirit guide us to welcome those who are far from you and bring them into your fold. Bless us with unity, purpose, and a spirit of service, so we can be a beacon of hope and comfort in this world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

-Steve Liang, President

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week begins on Palm/Passion Sunday. The purple color of Lent becomes scarlet as we enter into contemplating Christ's passion. On Palm/Passion Sunday we read the Passion. This year we read from the Gospel of Luke. The liturgy begins with the procession of palms recalling Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. There are prayers and scripture readings appointed for Holy Week. We will hold a simple evening prayer service in the Chapel on Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week.

The primary focus of the week is the Great Three Days. St. Augustine named it the "Triduum" in which Jesus suffered, died, and was raised. The great three days begin at the Maundy Thursday evening service when Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, continues on Good Friday when Jesus died, and reaches its climax at the Easter Vigil when the story of God's saving works are told, new Christians are welcomed through Baptism and new members received, and we feast on the bread of life and cup of blessing. This celebration spills over into Easter Sunday, continuing the feast of Christ's triumph over death.

There is a tendency to approach these sacred days as merely recalling what happened a long time ago. We do remember, but the greater truth is that Christ is actively present in these days, touching us with mercy and grace. It is indeed the Risen Christ who feeds us at the table, stoops to wash our feet, reigns victorious on the Cross, and brings the light that the darkness cannot overcome.

The three days are actually ONE liturgy. What begins on Maundy Thursday continues on Good Friday, the Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday. The services over the three days are considered one because the death and resurrection of Christ cannot be separated. Together, they are one saving mystery. Take this opportunity to be present for all three days to experience anew the saving love of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Join us in the lounge every Sunday after the service.

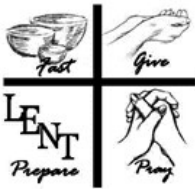
ADULT FORMATION is on hiatus during Lent. Instead, those new to FLCWS, along with their sponsors, will meet during the time after Coffee Fellowship, in preparation for Baptism or Affirmation of Baptism after Easter Vigil.

FOOD BANK COLLECTION: The West Seattle Food Bank box and all collections are in room C. Suggested donations for April are diapers, baby products and supplies. Any non-perishable foods, personal products, or grocery store gift cards are welcome. 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>.

EXTENDED MINISTRY: Support the Food Bank with Your Thriftway Receipts! West Seattle Thriftway gives back 1% of sales from receipts turned in to benefit the WS Food Bank! Simply drop your receipts in the envelope at the Extended Ministry bulletin board outside Room C—we'll take care of the rest. Every receipt counts and makes a difference to those in need in our community.

ST. JAMES DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE: The Spring 2025 issue has arrived. Copies are on the Narthex and Office counters.



LENTEN STUDY GUIDES: *Seeking Shalom* and *My Lenten Book* will be given to each family unit on March 2 and will be available throughout Lent. Prepared by Pastor Hansen, *My Lenten Book* includes suggestions and prayers for Lent.

LENTEN OFFERING: Watch for Lenten Envelopes in this *Messenger*, and Lent Sunday *Bulletins*.

We have designated our Sister Parish, *El Camino de Emaus*, in Burlington WA, as the recipient of our 2025 Lenten Offering. (This Offering is over and above any annual giving pledge amounts.)



TILDEN SCHOOL READ-A-THON: Help the young readers at Tilden School upstairs achieve their goal of 23,000 pages! FLCWS has pledged a penny a page (\$230 if they reach their goal). You can contribute to our pledge by leaving a check in the collection plate, or mailing it to Teri Korsmo here in the office. (Also, "Mr. G," Head of School and Tilden alumnus himself, Andrew Gustav, has promised to shave his beard if the kids reach their goal.)

STEWARDSHIP

While the primary focus of stewardship is to tend to and support the needs of our church and congregation, another aspect of stewardship is that of serving the community in which our congregation resides.

I want to extend my gratitude for your generous donations to the many charities supported by First Lutheran Church of West Seattle. Your contributions have made a meaningful difference in our community and beyond.

I've had numerous conversations with our charity partners, and one truth stands out consistently: monetary donations have a powerful impact. Charities often have significantly greater purchasing power than the average person, allowing them to stretch every dollar further to meet critical needs.

How can we maximize monetary donations to charities? I invite you to consider taking full advantage of your company's charitable giving programs, especially employee donation matching.

I understand that navigating the process of setting up employee match contributions can be frustrating. Company procedures can be complex, and sometimes you may need to follow up with your human resources department more than once. Policies change, forms get updated, and systems may be anything but straightforward.

Despite these hurdles, I challenge you to persevere. Keep following up, stay informed about any changes, and hold your company accountable for honoring its commitment to match employee donations. Every extra step you take could mean more resources for the charities we care about.

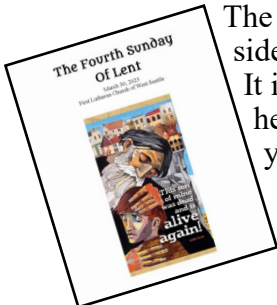
Thank you again for all you do.

Tyler Schorn, Extended Ministries

HAVE YOU NOTICED?

There is a new format for our Sunday morning bulletins. The texts and music of the liturgy are printed in a booklet format, so that newcomers and visitors who are not familiar with the worship book may participate in the liturgy with a sense of ease.

The hymnals are used only for the hymns. Also, the new format includes sidebars that provide commentary on the scripture readings and the liturgy. It is also a good space to include some announcements. We are already hearing how positive people feel about the new format and we're hoping you find our Sunday worship booklet helpful as well.



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: Peter and Dana Morrison, Shirley Graham, Nora Vanhala, Don Minter and children, Holly Petersen, and Michael Thompson.

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, and 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: Steve Liang, Matthew Kahn, Peter Douglass, Kathrine Young, Gina Allen, Dale Korsmo, Marianne Petersen, Tyler Schorn, David Juhl, and Steve Jeske, 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, Sudan, all immigrants and asylum seekers, and all who live in fear.

Pray that God will bless us through the lives of the saints: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian & martyr, 1945; Hoyohik Kagawa, renewer of society, 1960; St. Mark, evangelist; Catherine of Siena, theologian, 1380.

*Let not the problems of this day overwhelm
me, Lord. Give me to know Thy grace that is
equal to all I may face now and reliable for
eternity. Grant me perspective in perplexity,
patience in trial, and strength in adversity.
Through the Prince of Peace. Amen.*

E. Lee Phillips
Prayers for Worship
For All the Saints,
vol III p. 298

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

THE MESSENGER

April 2025



Holy Week At FLCWS

April 13

Passion/Palm Sunday

Holy Communion 10:30 am



April 15

*Tuesday in Holy Week
Evening Prayer 5:00 pm
(Chapel)*



April 16

*Wednesday in Holy Week
Evening Prayer 5:00 pm
(Chapel)*



April 17

*Maundy Thursday
Holy Communion 7:00 pm*



April 18

*Good Friday
7:00 pm*



April 19

*The Great Vigil of Easter
7:00 pm*



April 20

*Easter Sunday
The Resurrection
of Our Lord
Festival Eucharist 10:30 am*

