



# THE MESSENGER

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEST SEATTLE  
(206) 935-6530 [www.flcws.org](http://www.flcws.org) May 2025

## *Pastor's Page - Easter*

Mystagogy. It is not an everyday word, but it is the best word to describe the season of Easter. Mystagogy means “study of the mysteries.” The lectionary readings and themes of Easter derive from this ancient practice.

By the 4<sup>th</sup> century, many churches practiced the adult catechumenate, the process leading up to their baptism. Over time, the process developed and Lent became the period of time to prepare for baptism at the Easter Vigil and the Fifty Days of Easter, considered one unitive feast, was a time for them to be schooled in the mysteries of Baptism and Eucharist with all of its accompanying signs and symbols. Early church teachers like Augustine or Ambrose would call to mind the events of the Easter Vigil and introduce a sustained reflection on these sacramental actions. The signs and wonders were tied to scripture and what it means to follow Jesus in daily life.

This was a deeply formative time, relying as much on the experience of the newly baptized as formal teaching. This year's readings in Easter include a series of passages from Revelation which is itself a teeming with signs and symbols.

While we are not going back to the fourth century, (it's impossible and would be silly) preaching during the several weeks of Easter becomes the opportunity to reflect on the signs and symbols of the liturgy and sacraments. It is one way in which ancient practice contributes to current practice.

Enjoy the 50 days of Easter that culminate of Pentecost. Bring full attention to the sights, sounds, actions, and gestures of worship. What do these things alongside the scripture readings proclaim about the Risen Christ? How does Christ show up in and through them? What is the connection between the wonders of worship and our daily ministry of following Jesus?

An ancient church father once remarked that what was conspicuous in the Savior Jesus is now seen and known in the sacraments.

I pray this season of Easter will be one of joy and blessing for us all. Let the Easter acclamation ring out: “Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!”

In the peace of Christ,  
*Pastor Bryon Hansen*

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Beginning with the May council meeting, all future meetings will transition back to an in-person format held at the church on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Importantly, these in-person sessions will also be hybrid, offering an online attendance option for both council members and guests. Reflecting on the past five years of change, notably the reliance on virtual meetings driven by Covid-19, I believe a hybrid approach offers the best path forward. This model will allow us to thoughtfully reintegrate in-person meetings in the coming year while still providing the flexibility that virtual attendance offers.

Below are the scheduled dates for this year's council meetings as well as the link. Please note that there will be no council meeting held in August.

## Council Meeting Calendar Dates:

Tuesday, May 13, 2025: In-Person/Hybrid

Tuesday, June 10, 2025: In-Person/Hybrid

Tuesday, July 8, 2025: In-Person/Hybrid

No meeting in August

Tuesday, September 9, 2025: In-Person/Hybrid

Tuesday, October 14, 2025: In-Person/Hybrid

Tuesday, November 11, 2025: In-Person/Hybrid

Tuesday, December 9, 2025: In-Person/Hybrid

Tuesday, January 13, 2026: In-Person/Hybrid

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ffb-rdss-xqm>

Or dial: (US) +1 502-622-8042 PIN: 222 331 072#

-Steve Liang, President

## ALTAR FLOWERS

The Flower Lab is closing their business on California Ave. in the Admiral district. First Lutheran Church has used them for several years. The family is moving to Bellingham so we had find a new florist. Effective May 4, 2025 our a new florist for altar flowers is *Our Secret Garden*, located at 5020 California Ave. SW, [oursecretgardenws@gmail.com](mailto:oursecretgardenws@gmail.com). 206-588 2979.



Our Secret Garden was recommended to us. We met with the owner, Alonzo Fernandez, and he is pleased to be our new florist. The price per family will be \$70.00. Costs will be different for the Easter and Christmas arrangements. I will give him the family names listed for the month, e-mail and mailing address for each Sunday, as we have been doing with Flower Lab. He accepts credit cards, cash and checks. Sometimes families want an arrangement for the Columbarium and that would be done separately.

Continue to sign up and we will have flowers each Sunday which add to the Glory of God.

-Maxine Foss, Altar Guild

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**FOOD BANK COLLECTION:** The West Seattle Food Bank box and all collections are in room C. Suggested donations for May are hygiene products. 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.

**BEYOND EASTER:** During Lent the Journey of Easter took place for those new among us preparing for baptism or affirmation of baptism. The group with their sponsors will meet again after Sunday worship on May 4 and 11 to explore life during and beyond Easter. We will reflect on the Easter Vigil and consider using our gifts for ministry in daily life and a deeper involvement in the congregation.

**WE WELCOME YOU INTO THE LORD'S FAMILY:** We rejoice with William Croghan, Jeremy Keizur, Jacob Sagmoen, and Cora Sagmoen, all baptized at the Easter Vigil. We also rejoice with these persons new to FLCWS who affirmed their baptism at the Easter Vigil – Orion Conroy, Amanda Kaufman, Becca Ruggles, and Ting Ting Chang.

**SICK LEAVE:** Pastor Hansen will have surgery on May 12. This will be a second surgery on his right foot to replace the hardware is coming apart. While this surgery is not as extensive as the first, the recovery time is the same. He will be taking medical leave for six weeks, the amount of time when non-weight bearing is required. Pastor will be working through May 11. Pastor Phil Nesvig will be presiding and preaching for the rest May and early June. Pastor Ivar Hillesland will preside and preach on Pentecost, June 8th. On Holy Trinity Sunday, June 15, Pastor Barry Fritts will be the presider and preacher.

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATION:** Council members Kathrine Young and Steve Liang are the FLCWS representatives to this year's Synod Assembly in Everett, May 16 and 17. Topping the agenda is the election of bishop. Our current bishop may be re-elected or another person elected, depending upon the number of votes cast. Besides our current bishop Rev. Shelley Bryan Wee, another pastor has identified as a candidate, Rev. Priscilla Austin from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Seattle. According to the ecclesiastical ballot, any pastor may be nominated for the first ballot.

# STEWARDSHIP

As we are heading into the spring and summer months, we are a bit behind budget on giving. I would ask everyone to consider their efforts in giving, and work towards a full tithe. Hopefully we can close the gap to budget over the next few months. .

Tithing is frequently mentioned in scriptures (Genesis 28:20-22, Leviticus 27:30, Deuteronomy 14:22, Malachi 3:8-10) and serves many purposes. Here are just a few reasons to financially support the church and work towards a full tithe:

1. Spiritual discipline – giving away a portion of our resources reminds us that God is our provider; all we have is a blessing from Him and we need to put our trust in Him.
2. Financial discipline - making a commitment to give away part of what you receive may cause you to more closely monitor how you spend your money and improve your stewardship in all things.
3. Maintenance and care for our facilities - we have a beautiful facility, and besides the general expenses for the day-to-day operation, there are many maintenance costs (some that are not always obvious) that are necessary to keep the facility in a state of proper repair.
4. Source of livelihood for our staff - we have a talented and hardworking staff who deserves more than we are able to compensate them. At a minimum, we need to meet our commitments for their compensation.
5. Providing support for those in need - through our Extended Ministries programs, we support efforts to aid our neighbors in need.
6. Thanksgiving – we have much to be thankful for at FLCWS. The quality of our worship service, the preaching, the music, the teaching, and the fellowship all work together to keep our hearts in the right place – giving thanks for the promise of mercy that we have inherited through our faith in Jesus Christ.

Please prayerfully consider all these things when planning your giving over the summer and throughout the year. And thank you for your support of the church.

*“O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good and his mercy endures for ever.”*  
*Psalms 106:1*

## *Extended Stewardship—Thanks for Your Generosity!*

OUR LENTEN OFFERING this year was designated to benefit our sister congregation in Skagit Valley, El Camino de Emaus, which has many migrant and Spanish speaking members. Thanks to your generosity, our Lenten Offering totaled \$1,556.00.

TILDEN SCHOOL READATHON: Those champion readers surpassed their goal of 23,000 pages before they were halfway through the week! FLCWS pledged a penny a page (\$230.00) if they met their goal, and we surpassed our pledge, too, with a total of \$310.00!

-Peter Douglass  
Council Member

# 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 for our leaders, that they may govern with wisdom, justice, and mercy.

Pray that God will bless us through the lives of the saints: Philip and James, Apostles; Julian of Norwich, Renewer of the Church, 1416; Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, Hymnwriter & Renewer of the Church, 1760; Matthias, Apostle; Nikolai Copernicus 1543 & Leonhard Euler, Scientists, 1783; John Calvin, Renewer of the Church; 1564.

Let me be generous, not stingy or hesitant.  
Let me give you all – all that I have, think, do, and feel.  
It is yours, O Lord.  
Please accept it and make it your own.  
Amen.

Henri J. M. Nouwen

# THE MESSENGER

May 2025



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

## FEDERAL FUNDING HAS BEEN CUT OFF FOR FOOD BANKS & SCHOOLS!

In March the USDA announced the immediate termination of the Local Food for Schools (LFS) program and the Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) program, cutting \$1 Billion that supported school meals and food banks.

This means that the money the West Seattle Food Bank and West Seattle schools had to buy fresh local produce is gone. It also means that farmers in our region who grow produce have lost a significant market and source of income.

*The West Seattle Food Bank has some suggestions on how we can help:*

Support WSFB's Backpack Program & Fresh Food Fund. The Food Bank will experience an increased demand for weekend food backpacks and fresh produce. They will also experience increased demand for summer lunches when schools and lunchrooms go on summer vacation. [We can donate money to help with this.]

Buy LOCAL and advocate for Farm-to-Table Programs

Support farmers who lost funding by shopping at farmer's markets, joining a CSA, or encouraging local businesses to source from regional farms. Buying locally grown produce will help area farmers recover.

Contact state legislators and advocate for increased state funding to keep kids fed regardless of shifting USDA policies.

Consider volunteering at the Food Bank.

Donate funds to the West Seattle Food Bank or through your church offering.

Check the Extended Ministries bulletin board in the hall to find out what the Food Bank needs and donate via the church collection box in room C.