



# THE MESSENGER

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

## Pastor's Page – *Why pray?*

Full disclosure. I am both a “news junkie” and a “political junkie.” (I’ve been warned that this is a dangerous combination) Lately, however I’ve been failing to live up to these descriptions. Some days I have little or no desire to watch, listen or read the news. I’ve even abandoned some of my podcasts. This is not like me.

When I talk to some of my friends or acquaintances I realize that I’m not standing on this island alone. People are feeling discouraged and cynical about the nation’s ills and its leadership. There is deep division and polarization in our nation. Instead of civility it has become permissible to demonize those who hold a different view and instead of the common good, it seems that politicians of every stripe are most loyal to political gain and power seeking. I find that reducing my intake of news makes me feel better but I’m keenly aware that burying my head in the sand is not a healthy option.

What is a person to do? More specifically, what is a Christian to do?

God calls us to pray and pray unceasingly. Last month, one of our Sunday scripture readings included this familiar passage: “I urge supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.” (1 Timothy 2:1)

Each Sunday, in the intercessory prayers, we pretty much pray for everyone, including “kings and all who are in high positions.” In other words, we pray for those in authority, the leaders of this nation and throughout the world that they may govern with justice and mercy. Sometimes we may wonder why we pray when it appears that nothing seems to change. Why pray if it doesn’t seem to make any difference?

I think it’s important to remember that prayer is no magic formula but an ongoing conversation with God. It’s good to be bold in what we ask of God but we can’t presume that God will be changed by our prayers. Still, we pray trusting that God is somehow mysteriously at work in the world. Naturally we wonder why prayers have not been answered and injustice continue. Prayer doesn’t answer why but through prayer we can live in the world in spite of its ills. In spite of all our unanswered questions or frustrations, what we desire most is God. Prayer meets this desire.

We pray “thy kingdom come.” Luther wrote that the kingdom of God comes on its own without our prayer but we pray that it will come to us. Said in a different way, we pray that our lives will bear witness to the good news that the Kingdom of God has broken into our troubled world.

Prayer changes us. We become channels of healing, justice, and love – the very things we pray for. Prayer and actions are two sides of the same coin. They depend upon each other.

We can bury our heads in the sand for only a while. At some point we must come up for air. Just so, Christ meets us in prayer and sends us into the world to be the change for which we long and for which we pray.

Peace,  
Pastor Hansen

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thank you to all who attended the luncheon on Sunday, September 21st. We gave a warm welcome to Dana Robinson, our new Organist and Choirmaster. Dean Hard was honored for his many years of service as our Deacon and Choirmaster. Dean's years of service needed to be summarized on a full four-page pamphlet. The speeches were heartfelt and emotional. The food and desserts were delicious. Happy retirement, Dean!

Mark your calendars! The Cup of Blessing Dinner is happening this month on Saturday, October 18th!

This is our chance to support a truly great cause: the West Seattle Food Bank, which provides a crucial service to our community. As a long-standing partner in their mission, First Lutheran is excited to host this event once again. We have also invited St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church to join in the meal.

We'll have a presentation that delves into the food bank's inner workings, process, and impact, just like in past years. I have been given a small snippet of the program, which promises to be fun and interactive. I'm really looking forward to spending quality time with everyone outside of Sunday worship, donating to this essential service, and, of course, receiving this year's commemorative swag.

The Growing in Giving campaign started on Sunday, September 14th, and concludes on Sunday, October 5th. Hopefully, we all enjoyed the visual display with the sheep pledges and cloud testimonies. Thank you to all who participated in making the campaign a success.

*Merciful Father, We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

-Steve Liang  
President, Church Council

## Council Meeting Calendar Dates and links:

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 link: <https://meet.google.com/ffb-rdss-xqm>  
Or dial: (US) +1 502-622-8042 PIN: 222 331 072#



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**CHOIR REHEARSAL** Thursday, 7:00 pm. All are welcome. If you are interested in joining *Deo Gloria Cantores*, please contact Dana Robinson: dmrobsn@gmail.com

**WEST SEATTLE THRIFTWAY** gives back 1% of sales from receipts turned in to the WS Food Bank! Drop your receipts in the envelope on the Extended Ministry bulletin board outside Room C. Every receipt makes a difference to those in need.

**FOOD BANK COLLECTION:** The West Seattle Food Bank box and all collections are in room C. Suggested donations for October are canned tuna or chicken, mayonnaise or olive oil, and crackers. 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 with housing the hundreds of immigrants that keep arriving. If you can help, go to: <https://rivertonparkumc.com/donate>.

**OUR WEBSITE,** <https://flews.org> has events, recent homilies, and issues of the Messenger. (The old site's home-page, with archived materials, can be found at: <http://old.flews.org>)

**ADULT FORMATION:** Our adult formation has resumed! The class, "*Making Sense Out of Nonsense, and Back Again,*" begins following Coffee Fellowship in the Lounge. We are studying the Book of Ecclesiastes, led by FLCWS member Jeremy Keizur. Join us as we explore this most unique and interesting book of the Bible.

Beginning Reformation Sunday, October 26, the **Adult Formation** will feature a series on the *Nicene Creed*. This is the 1,700th Anniversary of the Creed. The series will focus on why it is important and how it is a force for both unity and disunity. How has this ancient creed separated the Christian East from the Christian West?

# STEWARDSHIP

*"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion."*  
2 Corinthians 9:11

Now is the time for each of us to prayerfully consider our giving for the coming year. It should be a spirit filled moment to reflect on what God has done for each of us and as a community in Christ. And our community is incredibly blessed by this traditional Lutheran Church whose beauty radiates in the Light of Christ in stained glass, holy worship in word and liturgy and the faithful members who established it and continue to sustain it for more than one hundred years. Each Sunday we verbally affirm "we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us." And let us consider our response to God and be thankful for the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, who has enriched us with the blessed assurance of Life Eternal. As Paul wrote in verse 12: "Through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

Our church has been designated as a recognized recipient of Thrivent's Choice giving program. Established just over twenty years ago as a result of the merger of Lutheran Brotherhood and Aid Association of Lutherans, Thrivent is a fraternal benefit society that provides insurance and annuity products. As a non profit, earnings are returned to policy holders in the form of dividends and choice dollars which can be designated by each member to a recognized church and/or charity. At the end of the year choice dollars will be assigned to each account, and through their website a contribution can now be made to our church.

Blessings,  
Steve Jeske  
Church Council

The Thrivent logo is centered within a white rectangular box. The word "thrivent" is written in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. A small registered trademark symbol (®) is located to the upper right of the letter 't'. The entire white box is set against a solid red background.

**First Lutheran Church of West Seattle is grateful to be a recipient of Thrivent Choice Dollars Grant Funds. If you are a Thrivent member, you can designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to First Lutheran Church of West Seattle.**



# INVITATION TO COMMUNITY MESSIAH SING-ALONG

## *St John the Baptist Episcopal Church*

Singers and instrumentalists from around Seattle, please join us for this performance of Messiah!

- Date: Friday, November 21, 2025
- Time: 7:00-8:30 PM
- Location: St. John the Baptist, 3050 California Ave SW, Seattle WA
- Details: <https://sjbwestseattle.org/pages/sing-along-messiah>

Written by George Frideric Handel in 1741, Messiah — and especially the Hallelujah Chorus — has become one of Western music's most widely performed and recognized pieces. St John the Baptist Episcopal Church is a welcoming and affirming community in West Seattle—and you are most certainly welcome here for this performance of choruses, solos, and instrumental music from Part I: The Birth of Jesus (+ a couple of additional numbers). Details on how to get involved follow.



**Singers** are invited to attend any (or all) totally optional rehearsals. Or, if you know it cold or want to wing it, just show up on November 21 for the fun. RSVP is requested but not required. Resources for learning the choruses will be provided ahead of time.

- Rehearsal 1 (optional): November 3 (6:30-8:00 PM)
- Rehearsal 2 (optional): November 9 (4:30-6:00 PM)
- Rehearsal 3 (optional): November 18 (6:30-8:00 PM)

**Instrumentalists** should learn their parts beforehand and plan to attend the single rehearsal. Handel's score calls for violin, viola, cello, bass, oboe, trumpet, timpani, and basso continuo (harpsichord, bassoon, portable organ). Mozart's arrangement expanded this to include clarinet, flute, and French horn. Our arrangement will include pretty much anyone who wants to show up—in the grand tradition of music throughout time, we'll use what we've got. If you come, we'll figure it out. RSVP is required.

- Rehearsal (required): November 16 (3-5:00 PM)
- RSVP: <https://sjbwestseattle.org/pages/sing-along-messiah>

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>om Choir— <i>Gloria Cantores</i></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>Francis of Assisi, 1226 Theodor Fliedner, 1864 renewers of the church, and society</p>
<p>om Choir— <i>Gloria Cantores</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p>Massie L. Kennard, 1996 renewer of the church</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>om Choir— <i>Gloria Cantores</i></p> 	<p>17</p>  <p>St Luke, Evangelist (Oct. 18)</p>	<p>18</p>  <p><b>Cup of Blessings Dinner</b></p>
<p>nes of Jerusalem, Martyr</p> <p>om Choir— <i>Gloria Cantores</i></p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>om Choir— <i>Gloria Cantores</i></p>	<p>31</p>	



**Reformation Sunday** is October 26th this year. Over the centuries, Lutherans have kept a special day to thank God for the freedom God's word grants believers and to pray that with the help of the Holy Spirit, the church will continually be renewed and reformed. Reformation Day began in 1667 on October 31 because on this date in 1517, Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg. That event marked the beginning of the Reformation that changed the church and much of European culture.



Beginning Reformation Sunday, October 26, the **Adult Formation** will feature a series on the **Nicene Creed**. This is the 1,700th Anniversary of the Creed. The series will focus on why it is important and how it is a force for both unity and disunity. How has this ancient creed separated the Christian East from the Christian West? The forum follows Coffee Fellowship in the lounge.

# 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, and Michael Thompson, and Cora Sagmoen.

Pray for the homebound that the light of Christ may give them joy: Joan Olson, Jeanine Lingle, Robert Schorn, CJ Christian, and Melanie Johnson

Pray for newly elected Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry and give thanks for the leadership and ministry of Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, pray also for our pastor Bryon Hansen, our retiring choirmaster Dean Hard, our incoming organist and choirmaster Dana Robinson, 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 in gratitude for the lives of Billy Arkle and Chris Korsmo. Pray for those who grieve, particularly the Arkle and Korsmo families.

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, that our collective actions may honor God and be a blessing in the world.

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

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: Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church 1226; Theodore Flidner, renewer of society, 1864; William Tyndale, translator & martyr, 1536; Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, North American pastor, 1787; Massie L. Kennard, renewer of the church, 1996; Teresa of Avila, teacher, renewer of the church, 1582; St. Luke, evangelist; James of Jerusalem, martyr, 62; Philipp Nicolai, 1608; Johann Heermann, 1647; Paul Gerhardt, 1676; hymnwriters; Simon & Jude, Apostles.

**Lord, our help and guide, make your love the foundation of our lives. May our love for you express itself in our eagerness to do good for others. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**For All the Saints, v. IV, p. 968**



## Cup of Blessings Dinner

Saturday, October 18, 2025

5pm – 7:30 PM

Join Us for the **Fundraising Dinner** benefiting the West Seattle Food Bank!

### Why are we putting this dinner on?

- There is a tremendous need in our community here in West Seattle.
- The Federal Government is cutting SNAP benefits
- Give to a program that feeds the hungry.
- For Lutherans like us, we are just providing you an opportunity to do a good work.
- What does Jesus teach us about feeding the hungry (one of my favorite bible verses):
- Matthew 25:35-40: <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

—That's why!

### Dinner Menu:

- Ivar's Classic Caesar Salad
- World Famous Clam Chowder
- Cedar Plank Salmon with Tomato Chutney
- Grilled Chicken Breast with Seasonal Sauce
- Sautéed Vegetables
- Herb-Roasted Wedge Potatoes
- Coffee, Hot Tea, Soft Drinks
- Dessert Dash!

### Other Fun Planned For The Evening:

- Time for fellowship
- Guest speaker from the West Seattle Foodbank
- We have invited St John the Baptist Episcopal Church to join us for the dinner. They joined us for our Epiphany service earlier this year.
- Raffle
- West Seattle Trivia Game
- Don't forget the Dessert Dash!
- A good time for everyone!

**Tickets:** <https://bit.ly/CupofBlessings2025>

**NOTE: We will also be available after church to help you purchase tickets**

All proceeds (including ticket cost) go to the **West Seattle Food Bank**.

Make your check payable to the West Seattle Food Bank

In Christ we can do all things.

-Scott & Valerie Schorn



# MORE FALL FUNDRAISERS



*Edible Hope Kitchen*, a ministry of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Ballard will have its annual fundraiser on Thursday, October 9 at the Old Stove Brewery Gardens. The vicar of

St. Luke's, Reverend Britt Olson, is Pastor Bryon's spouse. Thanks to donations by local restaurants, a hearty dinner will be served. Every dollar raised goes to feeding our neighbors. In addition to ticket sales there will be raffle items, a silent auction, and a "raise the paddle" auction to raise funds to ensure the ongoing ministry of Edible Hope and provide hunger relief to many. To buy tickets, donate, and learn more about the event, visit <https://ticketstripe.com/edible-hope-kitchen-2025-fall-fundraiser>. Join us for a night of fun and community!



*Books and Bricks Global* was created by a teacher who gave a girl a \$2 donation to pursue

high school education. Since then, many children have benefited from the school supplies, high school and college scholarships programs. Members of *St. John the Baptist Episcopal in West Seattle* have gone on over 10 mission trips to visit development partner villages, schools, students, and parents in Africa. We are a 501(c)3 organization, so donations are tax deductible.

**Fundraiser Goal** \$80,000 & \$15,000 to fund a library and or science laboratory.

**Date:** October 4th at 4pm. Tickets: \$25 for dinner and dessert.

**Venue:** Parish Hall at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, 3050 California Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98136

**RSVP:** [Office@BooksAndBricksGlobal.Org](mailto:Office@BooksAndBricksGlobal.org)

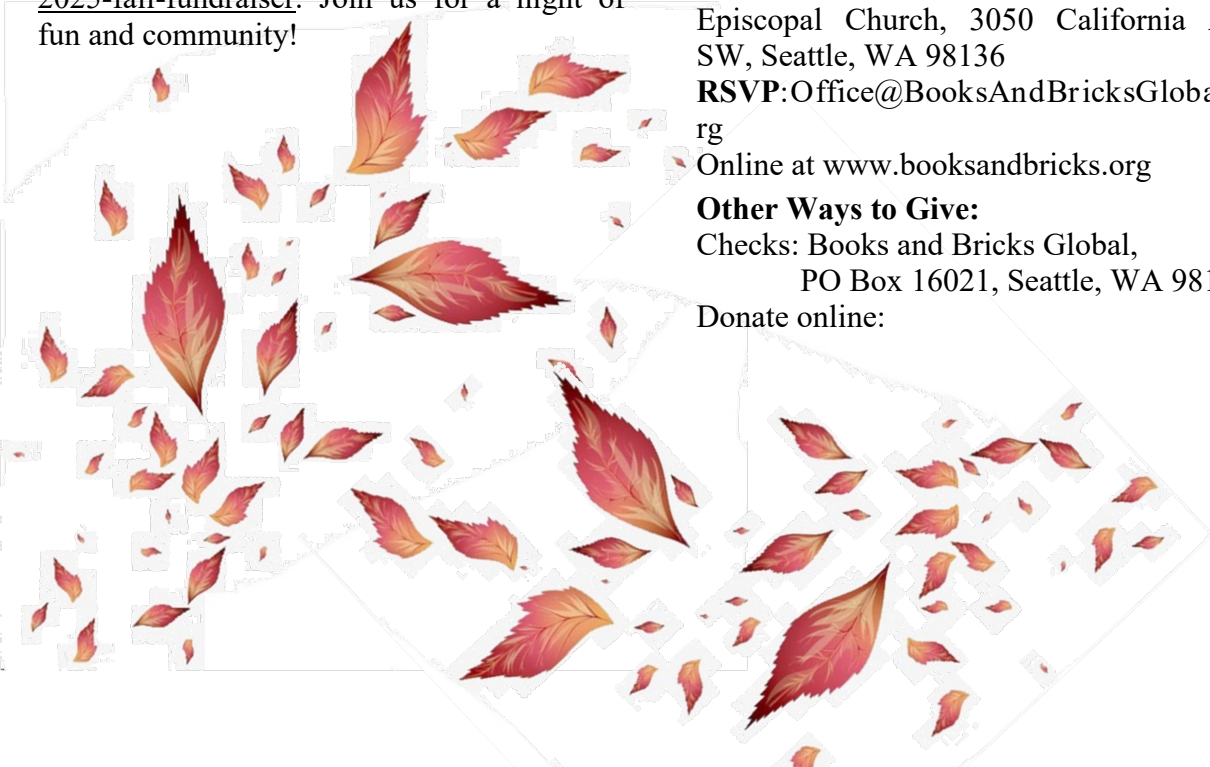
Online at [www.booksandbricks.org](http://www.booksandbricks.org)

## **Other Ways to Give:**

Checks: Books and Bricks Global,

PO Box 16021, Seattle, WA 98116.

Donate online:



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



# THE MESSENGER

October 2025



Join Us For

## Cup of Blessings Dinner

Saturday, October 18, 2025  
5pm – 7:30 PM  
*Details inside!*