



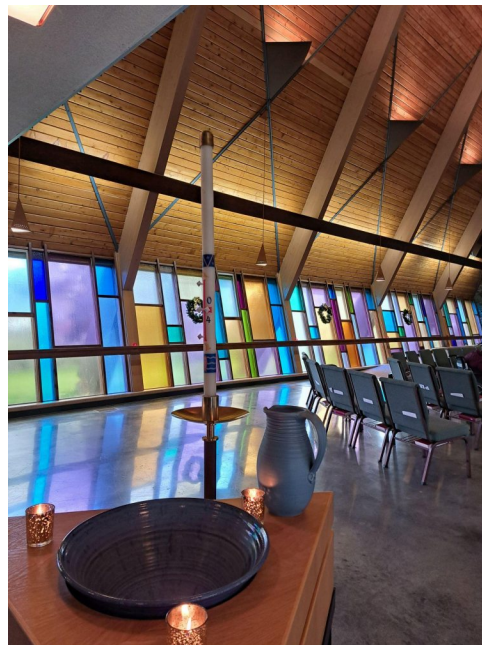
Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



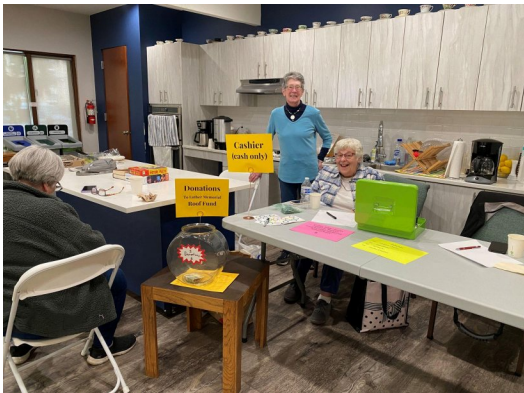
ANNUAL REPORT 2024

2024 Church Events

Worship



Book Sale





Roof Project



Property Cleanup



Food Drive



Pride Parade





LUTHER MEMORIAL

lutheran church

Annual Meeting February 2nd, 2025 at 11:45 am

Agenda

- Call to Order - Donna Smith, Council President
- Opening Prayer - Pastor Sara Funkhouser
- Affirmation of Quorum (10% of Voting Members Present)
- Approval of Agenda
- Minutes from January 28th, 2024 Annual Meeting
- Reports for 2024 - Presented as Printed
- Preliminary Nominating Report - Donna Smith
- New Business: 2025 Budget & Roof Funding Update
- Questions & Answers
- Prayer & Benediction - Pastor Sara Funkhouser
- Adjourn

Annual Congregational Meeting January 28th, 2024 11:30 am

1. Call to Order – by Donna Smith council President at 11:30 am
2. Opening Prayer – Pastor Sara Funkhouser
3. Affirmation of Quorum (10% of Voting Members) – Quorum declared present by Donna Smith with 21 members in physical attendance.
4. Approval of Agenda - Motion to approve agenda made by Elaine Hardin, seconded by Julie Moe and approved by members present.
5. Minutes from February 5th, 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting – Motion to approve minutes made by Mary Hinderliter, seconded by Andrew Wesley and approved by members present.
6. Preliminary Nominating Report – Council member terms as follows. Motion to approve terms of council made by Diane Chapman, seconded by Laurie Meade and approved by members present

Laurie Meade – departing council

Kris Johansson – beginning 2 year term

Donna Smith – renewing 2 year term

Dave Cederberg – renewing 2 year term

Keiko Long – renewing 2 year term

Marilyn Enloe – serving 1 more year (to fulfill 2 year term)

Lollie Ellingson – serving 1 more year (to fulfill 2 year term)

7. New Business: 2024 Budget and Roof Plan – changes since publication.
 - a. Budgets are the same, but budget 2 includes 2 yr plan to save money for roof replacement
 - b. 5700 to do a repair
 - c. Bids in from 4 different companies
 - d. Discussion has occurred on how to fund replacement
 - e. Possibility of considering a loan.

ON THE HORIZON

- a. Copier Costs – contract ends in NOV
- b. Possibility of getting 20-30,000 grant for food ministry
- c. Andrew – any other items that need maintenance.
 - i. Plumbing fixed
 - ii. Roof is only big issue
 - iii. A frame still good, needs moss removed

QUESTIONS

- a. Admin Expenses. Why some went up and some went down? (Lynne Greenup)
 - i. Didn't budget enough for copier last year. Upped it for this year's budget.

- We were on the hook for a late fee that increased
- ii. Zoom breeze tech charges were realigned. They were in outreach, moved them more appropriately to admin expense.
 - iii. New Bookkeeper named Lauren, UCC and 3-4 church episcopal, catholic. Specialized in churches. She is local, and can meet with Treasurer and council.
 - iv. Big increase 66203 - Custodial company changes. Started in January. The increase in custodian costs through the change would have been incurred regardless since we would
- b. Are we still covered by insurance?
 - i. Covered at a much lower coverage. (Mary)
 - c. Will new Janitorial company include changing lights?
 - i. Council will inquire. If not, we will make plans to cover that task. (Gordon)
8. Donna Calls for Vote
- a. Budget 1 – motion to accept made by Gordon, seconded by Andrew
 - i. Motion accepted.
 - ii. Motion to repair \$6000 / Motion to replace 56,000 20 yrs guarantee
 - iii. Motion made by Gordon to postpone final decision on roof action. Andrew seconded the motion. Bids to be finalized and research on loan terms will be made by council prior to a vote.
9. Closing Prayer by Pastor Sara Funkhouser
10. Meeting adjourned by Donna Smith at 12:20 pm.

Annual Report from Pastor Sara Funkhouser:

2024 was a whirlwind of a year, and it has been special to spend time reflecting on everything that we did as a community this past year. One of the reasons that I fell in love with this congregation during my interview was the commitment to living out our mission statement of “actively sharing Christ’s love in community.” Here are a few highlights of our ministry together in 2024:

- Celebrated the life of our beloved member Sharon
- Received food pantry donations from Broadview-Thomson and Whittier Elementary
- Supported Compass, Broadview-Thomson, and Foss Home and Village with money from our endowment fund
- Replaced our flat roof and have raised over \$15,000 of our \$50,000 goal to fund that project
- Confirmed three of our youth: Audrey, Daniel, and Emma
- Continued to welcome Foss residents for worship
- Studied Acts together with Northwest Christian Church
- Welcomed even more groups using our space for evening gatherings
- Hosted events at Compass Broadview for the children and their families
- Celebrated Christmas Eve with a joint worship at LMLC with Broadview Community UCC
- Gathered for worship, Seekers, Book Club, Bible Study, Adult Forums, Confirmation, and Potlucks/Board Games

In addition to everything that we did together, 2024 saw some changes to the way that my call is lived out within this community. Since July, I have been serving as the pulpit supply for Broadview Community UCC on Sunday mornings, as they discern their next steps forward. In December 2024, I also concluded two and half years of chaplaincy at Foss Home and Village following their sale and transition to Broadview Center.

This transition out of chaplaincy will lead to my full-time presence at LMLC, and I am excited for the future of our ministry together, as I’ll have more time and energy to dedicate to the ministry happening in this place. As a part of my increased time at the church, one of my goals is to increase my participation with our two other community partners: Compass Broadview and Broadview-Thomson.

While 2025 will look different in the way that I steward this congregation, thank you for your continued support and trust. It continues to be a great honor to serve this community, and I cannot wait to see what lies in store for us in this next year!

Peace,
Pastor Sara Funkhouser

Message from your Council President:

Welcome 2025 and welcome to new beginnings at LMLC!

It has been my pleasure to serve as your Council President this past year, and I look forward to continuing to serve in this role in 2025.

LMLC's greatest accomplishment in 2024 has been the completion of the flat roof project. Many thanks to all who pledged to finance this project!

Other opportunities to come together in 2025 include setting aside the first Sunday of every month for a dialogue discussion, the second Sunday of every month for a potluck and board games, the Lenten and Advent weekly meals and worship, as well as other activities that will be announced later in the year.

By the end of December 2024, 96% of the congregation's pledges for 2024 were received. Thank you to everyone for this great achievement! In order to meet our annual budget essentials for 2025 we will need everyone to contribute the full amount of their 2025 pledges so that we can reach 100% of our goal!

For the 2024 Stewardship Program we were asked what it means to be a member of Luther Memorial. For me, LMLC is part of my family. I have been a member of this church family for over 50 years. Despite experiencing several ups and downs over the years, my church family has been so very special to me. My church has always been there to support and help me, regardless of the issue.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support, including Pastor Sara, our various committees, and our congregation, to help make 2024 a successful year!

I look forward to continuing this work with all of you and experiencing an incredible year in 2025!

Your Council President,
Donna Smith

Luther Memorial Little Pantry Annual Report 2024:

It is always a challenge to have enough food to put out each week so we thank Whittier Elementary for their annual food drive. It gave us enough food to carry us through the summer. Fall found us with the shelves empty but the congregation stepped up big time with monetary gifts and in-kind donations from our pantry shopping list. Thank you! Thank you also to Foss Home and Village for their Thanksgiving food drive; it also helped us to stretch our offerings each day. In December we were again fortunate to be the recipients of Broadview-Thomson K-8's food drive. It was the most food we have ever received from them. This will help us stretch our food dollars and allowed us to offer a bigger variety of items. Thank you to the students, teachers and parents who made it happen.

The pantry is empty most days so we know the need is great. Thank you, Luther Memorial, for keeping this ministry going. We pray for each of our clients that they might find food security in the coming year.

We continue to fill the pantry six days a week and that could only happen because of our great volunteers. Thank you to our regulars Keiko Long, Marilyn Enloe, Vicki Cook, Mary Hinderliter, Diane Chapman and big thank you to Beverly Mueller who filled in for Diane and Mary while they recovered from surgery.

Mary Hinderliter and Diane Chapman
Pantry Coordinators

Kris's Story:

I arrived at LM kicking and screaming because our family had just left Montana, where my dad had been a pastor for 18 years. I was 13 years old at the time, and had lots of childhood friends that I left behind.

Why I stayed is the other side of this equation to balance it out. The warmth in accepting our family was wonderful. During high school getting involved with the "Come together Singers" lead by Kathy Nelson, and singing in the Choir with David Eddy, was a lot of fun. After college and a few out of state jobs, I moved back to Seattle. My mom was starting to lose her health and LM was still her favorite church. So, I thought I would help support her by taking her to church at LM.

What I love about LM is that there is a lot of love, care and concern for each other.

Elaine's Story:

When my husband retired, he volunteered for election duty. He was paired with a tenor who insisted Gene come join the choir at LMC. So we came and were warmly welcomed. We had found a new church home, a family that gathered us in.

Diane C.'s Story:

When Dick and I were married in 1970 we lived in an apartment in Ballard. We were married at St. John Lutheran Church where I was a member so it made sense that we would continue our church involvement there. When we moved to Shoreline in 1972, we had a decision to make: start at a new church or go to Luther Memorial where Dick was still a member. Dick's mom was a widow and just lost her father so we decided to support her and I joined Luther Memorial then.

It has now been 52 years and I am still at Luther Memorial. It is a great place to worship each Sunday and the service has wonderful music and great sermons. There are also many opportunities for community outreach. The people at Luther Memorial have been there for me through the ups and downs of my life when I needed them most. I couldn't ask for a more caring place to be a member.

Property Committee Report:

Work continues along the sidewalk on Greenwood Ave., but it looks closer to completion. Gordon has fixed another toilet in the men's bathroom and ordered a gasket for a minor leak he discovered in the process.

A window cling has been applied to a shattered window in the door leading out to the eastern entrance of the Narthex. It will be decided how to proceed to get the window replaced. Gordon will research his resources to get the cost of replacing the window. Another option would be to replace the door which may be the more cost-effective choice. We continue to thank Gordon for his continued support. There are also plans to install an interior door to the classroom to help with heat retention.

The area around the western entrance has been cleared of leaves. The sidewalk by the parking lot entrance was repainted with yellow paint designating the no parking zone. It is being considered to add more lighting to both of our entrances by installing a dusk to dawn flood light at each door.

Laurie Meade
Marilyn Enloe

Mary and Eric's Story:

In the spring of 2012 my sister who resided in Mexico was diagnosed with a terminal illness. With this heart breaking news, I knew our mom who was a resident at Foss Village, would need more spiritual support than Foss provided at the time. On a whim one day after visiting mom, I ran the doorbell of the neighboring church—-not even realizing what denomination it was. I was met by a kind office administrator who graciously showed me the best entrance for a wheelchair and what time Sunday service was held. With this information I remember saying “Mom I can’t take you every Sunday, but I will at least every other Sunday”. She agreed and our visits began.

We discovered a beautiful light filled sanctuary with smiles on the faces of those who eagerly greeted us PLUS a woman minister! Although we were not Lutheran, we very much felt spiritually at home. Every other Sunday soon grew into each Sunday with Eric joining us. Early on in our attendance, the wooden pews were rearranged to more easily accommodate mom’s wheelchair. That act of kindness really struck us and we knew we were surrounded by people living God’s love. In 2014 Eric and I became members of Luther Memorial Lutheran Church.

Laurie's Story:

When we moved into the home we still live in, we had three young daughters and were looking for a church to bring our girls up in. After trying a few, we felt really comfortable with Pastor Rod and the people who greeted us at the service we attended. No immediate pressure to join and contribute, just a welcome.

What I love about Luther Memorial is still the welcome for all, the long-time friendships, the service and all we accomplish for the community.

Ida's Story:

A resident, Elaine, at my new home at Ida Culver Broadview House learned I was Lutheran and invited me (offered me a ride) to LMLC AND introduced me. I really liked how friendly and energetic the members were. They gave me opportunities to help, but did not press when I explained my circumstances of grief, burnout, and exhaustion.

I really like Pastor’s sermons, and her voice when she sings the Great Thanksgiving. I love the positive energy and “can do” feeling and the space in the church. Also singing old, familiar hymns most of the time and familiar liturgy. I love the music, especially Cynthia’s playing and postludes, and the liturgies. I also like the stone wall. And the positive, supportive feelings (inviting, but not pushy) in many big and small ways.

2025 Proposed Budget

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church Budget Proposal for 2025

Actively Sharing Christ's Love in Community

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	
Revenue			
41500 Offerings/Tithes	107636.25	105000.00	
41550 Non-pledged Offering	437.00	600.00	
41650 Memorials	700.00	0.00	
41660 Foss Home and Commitment Fund	32499.98	0.00	No contract with buyers of Foss
43000 Room Use	6575.00	6500.00	
45000 Income-Other	1603.04	500.00	
Total Non-Restricted Income	149451.27	112600.00	
Designated Restricted Income			
45100 In Kind Donations	1665.34	0.00	
46000 Designated Restricted Income	200.00	0.00	
46020 Feeding Ministry Designated Income	5429.75	2500.00	
Total Designated Restricted Income	7295.09	2500.00	
Total Revenue	156746.36	115100.00	
Expenditures			
66100 Pastor Compensation			
66101 Pastor Salary	67772.84	70500.00	
66104 Auto Allowance	0.00	50.00	
66105 Professional Allowance	0.00	500.00	
66106 Education Allowance	1015.00	0.00	
66107 Pension	7879.92	8200.00	
66108 Health Insurance Package	8142.55	8500.00	
Total Pastor Compensation	84810.31	87750.00	
66200 Employee Compensation			
66201 Office Staff Salary	28656.75	29830.00	
66202 Musician Salary	9334.21	12600.00	Expect fewer absences – see Guest Musician, below
66203 Custodian Salary	0.00	7200.00	
Total 66200 Employee Compensation	37990.96	49630.00	
Guest/Contract Employee Compensation			
66301 Pulpit Supply	1493.32	1500.00	
66302 Guest Musician	3100.00	600.00	See Musician Salary, above
Total 66300 Guest/Contract Employee Compensation	4593.32	2100.00	
70000 Utilities			
70001 Heat	1278.87	1500.00	
70002 Electric	2765.45	3000.00	
70003 Water/Sewer/Waste	3514.97	3620.00	
70004 Telephone/Internet	2148.34	2200.00	
Total 70000 Utilities	9705.63	10320.00	
71000 Office Supplies			
71001 Postage	311.83	350.00	
71003 Copy Machine	5999.19	660.00	
71005 Subscriptions & Fees	455.00	500.00	
71006 Technology & Software	3055.52	3500.00	
72000 Bank Charges	1066.86	950.00	
73000 Delegates and Conferences	140.00	700.00	
73001 Council Retreat	64.48	0.00	
74000 King County Assessment	4612.46	5000.00	
74101 Payroll Taxes	5217.67	5500.00	
74102 Insurance	7922.24	8600.00	
75000 Maintenance/Repairs/Facility Supp.	10598.88	5000.00	2024 included drainage servicing
76000 Worship Supplies	1641.39	1500.00	
76001 Music Supplies	31.99	200.00	

**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
Budget Proposal for 2025**

Actively Sharing Christ's Love in Community

	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>	
76003 Instrument Maintenance	180.00	400.00	
77000 Sunday School Supplies	0.00	50.00	
77001 Adult Education	0.00	500.00	
77003 Fellowship	1551.59	750.00	
77005 Youth Program	0.00	50.00	
77007 Outreach	240.68	0.00	
78104 Benevolence – ELCA	6573.00	6200.00	
79000 Legal & Professional Fees	0.00	2000.00	Professional audit
Total Administrative Expenses	<u>50350.62</u>	<u>43610.00</u>	
Expenses for Designated Funds			
80010 Outreach expenses	388.93	1500.00	
80020 Food Ministry expenses	5429.75	8000.00	
Total 80000 Expenses for Designated Funds	<u>5818.68</u>	<u>9500.00</u>	
Total Expenditures	<u>193269.52</u>	<u>202910.00</u>	
Net Operating Revenue	<u>(36523.16)</u>	<u>(87810.00)</u>	
Other Revenue			
Withdrawals from MGF	45000.00	40000.00	
Total Other Revenue	<u>45000.00</u>	<u>40000.00</u>	
Net Revenue/(Shortage)	<u>8476.84</u>	<u>(47810.00)</u>	

Actively Sharing Christ's Love in Community through the 2025 Budget:

The 2025 Proposed Budget can feel a bit overwhelming, especially seeing the numbers in red. The biggest cause of that deficit increase is the loss of our chaplaincy contract with Foss Home and Village. However, when putting together this budget proposal, your Council remained committed to our mission of actively sharing Christ's love in community by investing in a full-time pastor position, keeping the funding for our food ministry at its previous level, and reimagining the Helping Hands fund so that we can continue to provide support for our neighbors during difficult times. The Council also has kept its same percentage of giving to the Synod because these funds connect us to the work of the Synod, as well as the global network of Lutheran organizations.

This budget is aspirational and missional, as it reflects the values of LMLC to be present in and serve the neighboring community. We continue to believe that LMLC makes a difference in the lives of its members and our Broadview Community, and our proposed budget does its best to reflect that belief. We will continue to do everything we can to steward our funds well, without being afraid to use some of the growth in our Mission Growth Fund to support the needs of this community.

**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
Ministry Growth Fund as of
December 31 2024**

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2024	\$ 760,530.85
Addition	27,803.90
Withdrawals	(138,000.00)
Change in market value	<u>53,105.12</u>
Ending Balance as of December 31 2024	<u><u>\$ 703,439.87</u></u>

Proceeds from the sale of Luther Memorial's parking area are invested in the above ELCA sponsored fund. The Fund is administered by 2 outside financial firms.

Additions are from income distributions for 2024. Distributions are paid quarterly and represent 4.0% of the average market value of the 5 previous year ends.

A \$45,000 total withdrawal was included in the 2024 Budget approved at the annual meeting. Through November, \$45,000 has been withdrawn for operations and drainage servicing. In August, \$40,000 and \$53,000 were withdrawn to cover the initial and final Flat Roof project payments.

The Fund's investment holdings are valued at market value (marked to market) each month. The total of these holdings plus cash held by the Fund determines the value of each Fund unit. That unit valuation times the number of units held in account for LMLC determines the ending balance with the change from January 1's balance being reflected in the 'Change in market value' amount.

Any holdings the Fund liquidated would result in a 'realized' gain or loss. However, for any holdings continuing to be held by the Fund, the changes to valuation are 'unrealized' (paper) gains or losses which may be reversed in the future.

Dave's Story:

Actively Sharing Christ's Love In Community

Luther Memorial's mission statement above cries out for member involvement. My own experience has been that the more I have been involved in my church activities, the richer my religious life has been. While this is different than my faith, it is certainly supportive of my faith. During my adult life, I have been associated with more small congregations than larger ones. My experience has been that, of necessity, a greater percentage of members in small congregations are active in stewardship by involvement. There isn't a bunch of other members to whom they can leave it.

As Treasurer, I appreciate the stewardship of our offerings. However, for me, and, I suspect for probably all Luther Memorial members, the most fulfilling moments are from our stewardship of active participation and not the writing of a check.

I embrace Luther Memorial's mission statement - even as I fall short of what I would like to do. I am impressed with how much other members have embraced the mission statement (possibly without even thinking about it). With such member commitment, I value being a part of the Luther Memorial community and its stewardship of involvement.

Lollie's Story:

Luther Memorial has been my church home for 46 years. A place that has seen me through many of life's stages. Weddings, children, baptisms, confirmations, divorce, and the passing of many loved ones.

What I found here at Luther Memorial is peace, love, and community. I am excited to continue my faith journey here and I am proud to carry on the legacy of actively sharing Christ's love in community. With good stewardship, we make it possible to continue this tradition.

Pastor Sara's Story:

When I started Seminary in Iowa, I never imagined that the Spirit would bring me out to a congregation in Seattle, WA. I had assumed that once my internship ended, I'd be sent back to a congregation in the Midwest, but I asked the Northwest Synod to consider keeping me. Thank goodness, they decided to keep me, and Andy from the Synod office called me with a potential call opportunity.

That congregation was Luther Memorial, and I knew as soon as I read the paperwork that I was interested in being considered as the new pastor here. I especially loved the mission statement and hearing the stories about why people loved being a part of this congregation. Thank you for continuing to share those stories with me, and I give thanks to God that I get to serve as the pastor for this amazing place!

Phyllis's Story:

Hi fellow Christians and Luther Memorial members,

Each Sunday, I worship with you. You don't see me, but I see you through the magic of YouTube.

On the corner of 130th St. and Greenwood Avenue N., where the apartments are now standing, there was a school known as the Lutheran Bible Institute. At this school, there was a chapel, which Luther Memorial rented for their worship space. I joined Luther Memorial at that time, the year 1955. During the spring of 1957, on a rainy Sunday, the entire Luther Memorial congregation marched, with Seattle Police on motorcycles escorting us, from the chapel to the new church building and had the first worship service in the space we use today.

Since that time, Luther Memorial has been a caring church for the Broadview community, Pacific Northwest Synod, ELCA, and for Lutheran World Relief. As a congregation, we care for our members, feed the hungry, work with Broadview-Thomson school, respond to local appeals for help, make health kits to send around the world, and made possible the building of a low-income apartment house on our former parking lot.

Now is the time to stand up, cheer, clap our hands, and shout hallelujah for the work well done and for what the future holds for Luther Memorial.

Blessings to each one of you.

January 2025



From the Bishop:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might... Isaiah 6:3

Do you hear a song, or maybe a multitude of songs, when you read the words above? We know these words in hymnody – in traditional songs, in praise songs, as part of the Eucharistic liturgy, and more. These words are deep in the bones of the Church. Of course, like so many lyrics that we sing in church, they weren't created out of thin air. We first hear these words from seraphs during the strange and grand vision that Isaiah had when he entered the holiest of holy places in the Temple – the place that housed the ark of God, the place revered as God's earthly throne, the place where God was simultaneously present in the heavenly realm and within the fabric of the world. We hear these words in Isaiah's call story in [Isaiah 6:1-8](#). (Go ahead ... read the Isaiah story now before reading the rest of this article.)

As Isaiah enters into the Holy of Holies, God grants Isaiah a glimpse into God's celestial throne room. God is so magnificent and big that the hem of God's robe fills the temple. God is attended by fierce and fiery creatures – scary flying snakes with six wings called seraphim. These were not the cute cherubs holding flutes and harps. These were sea serpent-sized creatures singing (shrieking, screaming) in loud, ear-piercing voices, "*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty...*"

Isaiah is overcome. He falls on his knees and cries, "Woe is me!" Isaiah knows, in that moment, who the Creator of the universe is and what this Creator can do. Isaiah knows he could be destroyed in the flash of a second.

It needs to be said, of course, that Isaiah's vision didn't happen in a vacuum. Isaiah entered the holy of holies when the Assyrians were attacking and the people of Jerusalem were trying to barricade themselves against this most formidable army. Outside of the Temple it was a dark and scary time. For Isaiah, and the rest of the Judeans, the world felt frightening and terrifying and out-of-control.

Do you know this feeling? This feeling of being so small and powerless in a world that seems so big and overwhelming. This feeling of the world being topsy turvy and unpredictable. This feeling of not knowing what to do next because everything seems like too much to bear.

For Isaiah, the next thing that happens in his vision is that a huge seraph comes at him with a piece of burning coal and presses it to his lips. The pain must have been brutal. But when the coal touches Isaiah's lips, things are clarified for him – he is cleansed and he is prepared for what is coming next and he instantly pledges to God, "Here I am. Send me." And Isaiah becomes God's prophet. (If only things could be made this clear for all of us.)

In any case, what do we do with this strange and beautiful story? What does Isaiah's call story mean for us today? Please know that I cannot wrap this story up in a tidy bow – nor do I want to – because this isn't how life works. (Also, Isaiah couldn't either ... as much as Isaiah pledged to follow God, if you read [Isaiah 6:9-11](#) you'll hear Isaiah crying out, "How long, O Lord?"). But this is where I seize hope.

Above all things, God is God and we are not. God is wholly other. We cannot know the mind of God. And yet, in this extraordinary story, there are glimpses beyond majesty and awe. God is fearful to behold and God holds us as a mother holds a child to her breast. The touch of God burns and yet it is with life-giving fire. God towers above and God embraces us in inexplicable and earth-shattering tenderness and forgiveness. The One who creates all things also lives in the dirt and muck of life.

Dear Beloveds, may you always know and trust through all things: God is God. Almighty and Always. The One who shepherds you in life also tenderly holds you into death and beyond. The One who created the universe is as close as your next breath. For God gave you life, named you, and holds you near. Forever. *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.*

Amen.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee | bishop@lutheransnw.org