Kirkkopulletiini

OF FINNISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

March – April 2026

”Toisenlaista paastoa minä teiltä odotan”

Elämme kirkon vuodenkierrossa paaston aikaa eli pääsiäiseen valmistautumisen aikaan. Perinteisesti paastoamista on pidetty itsereflektion, katumisen ja muutoksen, parannuksen tekemisen aikana. Me luterilaisissa kirkoissa paastoamme enimmäkseen vähäeleisesti. Yksi pidättäytyy makeista herkuista, toinen valitsee tavallista useammin kasvisruoan, kolmas jättäytyy muutamaksi viikoksi pois somesta. Jos paastoamme, tavoitteenamme on yleensä raivata hieman enemmän aikaa rukoukselle ja hiljentymiselle, ehkä Raamatun lukemisellekin. On hyva hiljentya Jumalan edessa. Mutta paasto on myos kutsu ja haaste toimintaan ja tekoihin, etta huomiomme kohdistuisi pois itsestä, enemmän ympärillämme oleviin ihmisiin, jotka tarvitsevat meitä.

”Toisenlaista paastoa minä odotan: että vapautat syyttömät kahleista, irrotat ikeen hihnat ja vapautat sorretut, että murskaat kaikki ikeet, murrat leipää nälkäiselle, avaat kotisi kodittomalle, vaatetat alastoman, kun hänet näet, etkä karttele apua tarvitsevaa veljeäsi.” (Jesaja 58:6–7)

Yhteiskunnan asenteiden koventuessa meitä kristittyjä kutsutaan tulemaan pehmeämmiksi, tulemaan myötätuntoisemmiksi ja armollisemmiksi lähimmäisiämme kohtaan. Jeesuksen seuraaminen toteutuu sekä sydämissämme, etta myös tekojemme kautta, Kristuksen rakkaus kutsuu sanoittakin uusia ihmisiä luokseen.

Rauhallista paaston aikaa sinulle ja läheisillesi! - pastori Marita –

“I expect a different kind of fasting from you”

We are living in the time of Lent in the church, a time of preparation for Easter. Traditionally, fasting has been considered a time of self-reflection, repentance and change, of making amends. In Lutheran churches, we mostly fast in a low-key manner. One abstains from sweets, another chooses vegetarian food more often than usual, and a third abstains from social media for a few weeks. If we fast, our goal is usually to carve out a little more time for prayer and silence, perhaps even reading the Bible. It is good to be silent before God. But fasting is also a call and a challenge to action, work and deeds, to focus our attention away from ourselves, and more on the people around us who need us.

“I look for another kind of fast: to release the innocent from their chains, to let the oppressed go free, to break every yoke, to deal out bread to the hungry, to open your house to the homeless, to clothe the naked when you see him, and not to turn away your brother from his need.” (Isaiah 58:6–7)

As society’s attitudes harden, we Christians are called to become softer, to become more compassionate and merciful toward our neighbors. Following Jesus is realized both in our hearts and through our actions, the love of Christ calls new people to Him also without words.
Wishing a peaceful Lenten season to you and your loved ones! - Pastor Marita –

Your Council in Action

The Annual Congregation Meeting was held on January 25, 2026. The council President, Ilkka Lähdesmäki and the Vice President, Satu Mikkola, were in turn to leave the council after serving for 6 years. We also lost the council secretary, Krista Glantschnig after serving her one-year term. Additionally, John Pekonen, who has been our Financial Secretary for many years, resigned. We are very thankful to all of them for their dedicated service.
Ina Darms, Meghan MacKrell, and Eija Tammi were elected as new council members.

A reoccurring problem with the temperature control of the west side heating element in the sanctuary has needed electrical repair work. Repair of the sanctuary door as well as replacement of the blue cover on the main door entrance overhang is planned to be done later in the spring.

The council is starting to work on finding a solution for the pastoral service after Pastor Marita's return to Finland around the end of 2026.



Hei, olen Ina Darms, kolmen pienen lapsen äiti ja kotoisin Tampereelta. Perheemme muutti Tacomaan muutama vuosi sitten, ja olemme vähitellen juurtuneet tänne kauniiseen Washingtoniin. Arkeni täyttyy lasten kanssa touhuamisesta ja luonnossa liikkumisesta. Viihdyn ihmisten parissa, pidän uusien asioiden kokeilemisesta ja arvostan erityisesti kirkon lämmintä yhteisöllisyyttä.

Toivottavasti tapaamme pian seurakunnan tapahtumissa!

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Saturday, March 21 at 3pm: Steve Solkela performs at FLC as part of his
West Coast Shenanigans Tour,
with special guests the Finnish International Choir.

March and April 2026 at FLC

MARCH

1st Sunday 10 am **Service: Second Sunday in Lent** with Marita Toivonen and Maria Männistö

5th Thursday 7 pm Lent Bible Journaling Group on Zoom

8th Sunday 10 am **Service: Third Sunday in Lent** with Marita Toivonen and Maria Männistö

8th Sunday 12-1 pm Hiljaisuuden joogan harjoitus – Practice of Yoga on Stillness at Maki Hall

12th Thursday 7 pm Lent Bible Journaling Group on Zoom

15th Sunday 10 am **Service: Fourth Sunday in Lent** with Marita Toivonen and Maria Männistö, hymns we are going to sing are from the British Isles

19th Thursday 7 pm Lent Bible Journaling Group on Zoom

22nd Sunday 10 am **Service: Marianpaiva** with Steve Solkela, Finnish International Choir, Maria Männistö and Marita Toivonen

26th Thursday 7 pm Lent Bible Journaling Group on Zoom

29th Sunday 10 am **Service and Holy Communion: Passion Sunday – Palmusunnuntai** with Marita Toivonen and Maria Männistö

APRIL

2nd Thursday 7 pm **Maundy Thursday ON ZOOM** with Marita Toivonen and Maria Männistö

3rd Friday 3 pm **Good Friday ON ZOOM** with Marita Toivonen and Maria Männistö

5th Sunday 10 am **Easter Day Holy Communion** with Church Choir, Maria Männistö and Marita Toivonen

12th Sunday 10 am **Service: Second Sunday of Easter** with Marita Toivonen, Maria Männistö and Kristi Rendahl. Kristi will provide music during the church service, and also do a mini-recital in Mäki Hall after the service during coffee hour.

19th Sunday 10 am **Service: Third Sunday of Easter** with Marita Toivonen and Maria Männistö, Livakat Evergreen Kantele Playeres and Valerie Blessley. Kantele music also during coffee hour.

26th Sunday 1 pm **Holy Communion: Fourth Sunday of Easter at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Bellevue** with Marita Toivonen and Maria Männistö

Free Museum Visits

Museums are great way to get knowledge and new ideas, have recreation and meet people. Pastor Marita is organizing 4 group visits to Seattle's Top Museums on their Free First Thursday program and also to Amazon Spheres Public Saturday. Send an email to Pastor Marita before due date and she will make reservation for free tickets on the right time.

We will meet in front of the admission counter on the set time to get the tickets and go inside the museum as a group. Inside the museum we can explore the exhibitions and rooms as we like on our own, we will not have any guided tour.

The museums and the dates are:

Thursday 5th March at 1 pm Seattle Art Museum. Send email to Marita latest on Wednesday 4th March.

Thursday 2nd April at 1 pm Burke Museum. Send email to Marita latest on Wednesday 18th March.

Saturday 2nd May at 1 pm Amazon Spheres. Send email to Marita latest on Wednesday 15th April. To check-in to Spheres, every adult must present a valid, physical ID. Visit time is approximately 1 hour. Outside food is prohibited.

Thursday 7th May at 5 pm Museum of Flight. Send email to Marita latest on Wednesday 6th May. Museum is open until 9 pm.

Let's go together and have a fun afternoon exploring interesting places!

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Volunteering in Bible reading and Coffee Time

We are looking for more people to volunteer on Sunday services. If you would like to bring your offering in music by playing or singing as prelude or postlude, please, let us know. Or if you would like read the Bible texts in services, sign up for readers' list or send an e-mail or message to pastor Marita. You can read the texts either in English or in Finnish, on Zoom or being present at the church. Pastor Marita will send you the right texts beforehands in your language.

Google Docs sign-up sheet for Coffee Time and Bible readers:
FLC Coffee Time and Bible Readers Sign-up Sheet - Google Sheets

The Finnish Choral Society of Seattle

in cooperation with the National Nordic Museum presents

The 50th Annual Kalevala Festival Events

at the National Nordic Museum

1) A Lecture " An Introduction to Kalevala" by M.Th, M.A. Marita Toivonen on Kalevala Day, Saturday February 28 at 1 pm

2) A Folkdancing demo and workshop with Katrilli Folkdancers
on Thursday April 9 at 6 pm

3) A Kantele performance at 1 pm and Kantele playing workshop at 2 pm with the Livakat/Evergreen Kanteles
on Saturday April 18 at 1 pm

4) A Choir Concert by the Finnish Choral Society
on Thursday evening April 23 at 6 pm

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Office hours

Pastor Marita will be at FLC for office hours twice a week, every Tuesday from 4 to 6 pm and every Thursday from 10 am to noon.
You can come to meet pastor at the church or if you would like to meet in some other place or pastor Marita to visit you, please let her know pastor@finnishlutheranchurch.org or call the church phone 206 789 0864.

Finnish Lutheran Church
8504 - 13th Ave NW
Seattle WA 98117
Office phone: 206-789 0864
web page
http://www.finnishlutheranchurch.org

Finnish Lutheran Church is located in Crown Hill, serving all the Finns in the Washington State area and people with any interest in Finnish language or culture. We have services both in **English** and in **Finnish** with Finnish Liturgy **every Sunday at 10 am,** everybody is welcome! Finnish music is presented with our numerous and gifted members and friends. You are welcome to stay for a coffee and refreshments after church and get to know new people!

Finnish Lutheran Church

8504 13th Avenue NW
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