



Life of Faith

December 2020

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PASTOR'S BLOG

We are embarking on a holiday season we have never experienced before. Thanksgiving took on a new dimension for me. I find myself grateful for all the things I used to take for granted: the shelter of my little home, food in the cupboards, a job I love and good health. Add to those blessings the support and care of friends and family and I have life abundant! Yes, there are things I dearly miss and long for, but there is little to complain about.

November 29 was the first Sunday in Advent. We began our wait for the birth of the Christ child and continue to prepare ourselves for the holy birth. I imagine Christmas wish lists will be radically different this year. During the pandemic, the accumulation of “stuff” lost significance. We have had time to consider who and what has importance and value in our lives. One of the things I will miss most is singing. The voices of Faith singing “Silent Night” by candlelight—IS the second-best Christmas gift. Hymns often capture our hopes perfectly: “We are called to ponder myst’ry and await the coming Christ, to embody God’s compassion for each fragile human life. God is with us in our longing to bring healing to the earth, while we watch with joy and wonder for the promised Savior’s birth.”

God bless us all. Pastor Nancy



DATES TO REMEMBER AND ADVENT RESOURCES FOR YOUR HOME

- December 2, 9, 16, 23 at 7 p.m. – Advent Worship
- January 31, 2021 at 11 a.m. – Faith Lutheran Church Annual Meeting. The format will be new for everyone so watch for more information to come.



Please pick up a free Advent Calendar and study resource book in the entry to Fellowship Hall.



ADVENT

COVID has interrupted but not stopped us from gathering in new ways. For Advent, on Wednesday nights, December 2, 9, 16, & 23, at 7:00 we invite you to join Dawn Kranz and Grace and Mike Camp leading the Faith community in Holden Evening Prayer, Zoom-style. Copies of the service will be available in the parish hall foyer for pick up. Deanne will send an Email with the Zoom link that will remain the same for all the services. Just click on the link, make sure your mic is off and your camera on. Light a candle so that we all can see it and sing along! The leader(s) will have their mics on, so they will be the only ones you'll hear. You can even harmonize with Dawn or Grace in the

privacy of your own soundscape. Enjoy and welcome to Holden Evening Prayer, Zoom-style.

Pastor Nancy reminds us that our Advent/Christmas giving could include not only FLC, but Bread for the World, M.E.N.D., ELCA Good Gifts and World Hunger.

FLC: PO Box 418, Leavenworth
Bread for the World: bread.org
M.E.N.D.: uvmend.org/donate
ELCA Good Gifts: goodgifts.elca.org
World Hunger: worldhunger.org

BOOK STUDY GROUP

FLC Book Study group is meeting via Zoom these days on Monday mornings at 9:00 A.M. If you are interested in joining us, we are starting a new book after Thanksgiving. The book, "*Separated, Inside an American Tragedy*" by Jacob Soboroff, is about the immigration debacle at our southern border with its costs and consequences to real human beings. If you are interested, please consider joining the group. We'd love to have you join in!

To join the book study group, please contact Lisa Therrell (548-4387) or Margaret Neighbors (548-0166).

QUILTING FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

The FLC Quilt Group finished 7 quilts this Fall and is now on hiatus until after the Holidays. If you need something to do (Ha!) in the meantime we have lots of squares to be pieced together into tops. We'd be happy to get those squares to you. Contact Margaret Neighbors for more information, to join us in January and to be added to the email list!

CHURCH SIGN STOLEN

On Halloween Day, Pastor Nancy noticed an unfamiliar SUV parked in front of the church. She walked out to check as the vehicle sped away and noticed that our heart-shaped Reconciling in Christ sign was missing. Pastor Nancy has filed a police report and the church council will discuss how to replace the sign which will cost \$200. Recent information is that Lisa Therrell is seeing that the sign is replaced.

Faith Lutheran has been a Reconciling in Christ Community since 1990. This means we actively welcome the LGBTQIA+ community as full participants in our congregational life. For more information check out the website at ReconcilingWorks.org.



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in America

A NEWLY DESIGNED CHURCH

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with nearly 3.3 million members in more than 8,900 worshiping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work. Our hands," the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church reformer Martin Luther. The future Church is based in the belief that members, congregations, synods and the churchwide organization must work together to share the powerful witness of the gospel in the world and to invite more new, young and diverse people to experience God's grace in action. The new design identifies three priority areas: (1) A welcoming church that engages new, young and diverse people (2) A thriving church rooted in tradition and radically relevant (3) A connected, sustainable church that shares in a common purpose and direction.

COVID-19 GRANTS FROM NORTHWEST INTERMOUNTAIN SYNOD

Faith Lutheran recently received two ELCA grants from the Northwest Inter mountain Synod to help relieve some of the effects of COVID-19. The first grant of \$2,500 was awarded to the Immigration/Race Justice Group who proposed using the funds for community assistance for needs separate from what Upper Valley M.E.N.D. provides. The grant provides such things as assistance to emigrant students, single women and their children who are seeking asylum or who have medical needs.

The second grant of \$1,700 is a technology grant to help Faith Lutheran acquire equipment needed for producing online worship. Earlier this year, Faith Lutheran also received a \$2,5000 grant to help M.E.N.D. fund a new Community Assistance Coordinator.

We are fortunate and grateful to have Lisa Therrell serve on the Synod Council Covid-19 Grant Task Force. The many ways in which churches across our synod partner to care for those in need is very inspiring and hope-filled work.

ABOUT US

- **Liz Caemmerer** has been in Hospice care since the middle of November. We are deeply saddened by the fact her cancer has returned. It is a joy to know Liz and to have her in our congregation. She is a lovely model for many who are fortunate enough to have been part of her life.
- During the election, **Caleb Spiegel Ostrom** joined the Nevada Democratic Party to help elect Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. He organized events to help get out the vote and push the state over the finish line!
- **Peter and Marci Spiegel Ostrom** were diagnosed with COVID-19 on November 14.
- Our sympathy to **Connie Thomassen** on the death of her mother and to **Greg Steeber** whose older brother died of cancer the first week of November
- **Shirley Decourcy** moved to Florida on November 12 to be with her daughter. She sends God's blessings to everyone.

On Community: Engrave this upon my heart; There isn't anyone you couldn't love once you've heard their story.

COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECT WRAPS UP

2020 concludes the six-year Icicle River Community Solar Project organized by the Faith Lutheran Earth Stewardship Group. Ownership of the solar installation has been transferred to the Cascade School District. In October, project investors received their final cost recovery payment. To quote Jim White of the Chelan County P.U.D., "this community solar project is the truest form of public power. It is power generated by the public for the public."

Here are a few celebratory facts about this project: Over the six year life of the project, 147,424 kilowatt hours of electricity was generated. With a reimbursement of \$1.08 per each kilowatt hour produced, our collective reimbursement from the

Chelan County PUD was \$159,217.92 from the original \$120,000 investment.

If this much electricity was produced by burning oil, it would require 3,642 gallons. Even though our local electricity is generated by hydroelectric power, the energy savings sold to other electrical providers reduces the need for fossil fuel energy production.

The Cascade School District received SNAP payments during the life of this project totaling \$8,666.92. The school district will continue to receive SNAP payments and will now also receive payments for the energy produced based on off-peak market prices. (Lisa Therrell)

GEMS FROM MY TABLET that help me smile



The dumbest thing I ever purchased was a 2020 planner

They said a mask and shoes were enough to go to the grocery store. They lied. Every one else had clothes on.

I'm going to stay up on New Year's Eve, not to see the new year in, but to make sure this one leaves.

Having some states locked down and some states not locked down is like having a peeing section in a swimming pool.

If I had only known in March it would be my last time in a restaurant, I would have ordered dessert.

I never thought the comment "I wouldn't touch him (or her) with a six foot pole," would become a national policy. But here we are.



REACTIONS TO THE PANDEMIC

The following comments are from members of FLC who were asked how their lives were affected by the COVID pandemic of 2020

CARL FLOREA

Because of my new position as mayor of Leavenworth, I think my experience of this pandemic has been far from typical. I have not had many face-to-face meetings but have been overwhelmingly introduced to the land of Zoom with these online meetings often scheduled back to back to back.

Through it all there have been two very strong takeaways for me. The first one is what we all should know as people of faith. We have very little control of life's events despite our strong desire to pretend and build up our illusions of control. A pandemic is one of those times when that illusion

simply cannot stand up to reality. Those who accept this fact are able to adjust and cope in healthier ways.

The second takeaway is that times of crises does one of two things. It either brings out the very best of our human nature with kindness and empathy or it brings out the very worst in our self-centeredness and greed and intolerance. We are in this together, that I know, and there is no escaping, no shortcuts. I only pray that each of us experiences the truth of God's love in new ways as we trust in the midst of turmoil and lack of certainty!



AMY AND REED CARLSON

So where in this crazy new reality do we find our solace? Reed finds comfort in holding the bunny in his robe, building the lagamorph a hutch, working on house projects, wandering the hills photographing the seasonal transition, keeping the vehicles running, ordering another set of snowshoes for winter escapades and sitting by the fire designing new creative curricula for his students.

Amy says she goes for books. In the wise words of Jewish theologian Martin Buber, "This is the kingdom of God, the kingdom of danger and risk,

of eternal becoming, of opened spirit and deep realization, the kingdom of holy insecurity." How do we come to terms with this "holy insecurity?" That is the real question. Within this holiness, I find my solace has come from the sun on my face, the twitter of chickadees in my ear and the splinters of firewood-stacking in anticipation of snow. My motto these days: keep moving, get outside, and in deep realization remember the Saints who have paved the way for us to thrive, despite it all, into salvation; or in Dan Erlander's understanding, "live into the spaciousness of God." Amen!

THE BUBBLE called Leavenworth interesting statistics following the election. 53% of Chelan County voted for Trump. In Leavenworth, 65% of the vote was for Biden and 35% for Trump.

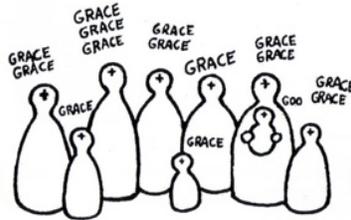
What If This Were True? Using just 3% of the U.S. military spending could end starvation on earth. (worldbeyondwar.Org)

REACTIONS TO THE PANDEMIC, continued

ALEX SCHMIDT

I'll echo my daughter Bethany's comments about all this virus stuff: "Dad, I think I was made for pandemics. I so appreciate the quiet, solitude, and simpler life." She teaches and works in the field of Criminology at Cambridge University, U.K. I can relate and am appreciative in many of the same ways. Nevertheless, I have learned some "lessons." Not so much personal as communal and national—given the extra time to ponder the recent election and its implications. How very sad for me to realize that the president

received more votes this election than in the previous one. That means that nearly half of our nation's population, on some level, in some capacity, are not attentive, aware, or engaged with the issues of justice and equity embedded in our society: health care; gender rights and equality; immigration; social and economic disparity; and systemic racism. Just to name a few, right? Can you think of others? Let us not become weary of being attentive and engaged as we are able.



SUSAN BURTUILLE

During this weird time of anxiety and isolation, I find myself every day wavering between sadness and gratitude.

My role as the Faith Lutheran Church pianist has changed markedly during the pandemic. Before COVID, I would be practicing my music during the week and looking forward to making music on Sunday with my musician friends, surrounded by joyous voices filling our little church with song. Like everyone in our congregation, I sadly miss our weekly gatherings where we all enjoy music and inspiration and laughter together.

Now, each week I organize and record music for our Sunday services. I record each piano part

and email the recordings to each musician: Caleb Spiegel Ostrom, Mandi Wickline, Judy Huett-Harris, Amy Carlson, John and Susan Wagner, Elsa Wagner Foote, Gracie, Mike and Ellie Camp, and Nadine Sanders. They record their part in sync with my piano. We send our recordings to Lindsay Camp, who, with daughter Gracie, magically "mixes" — synchronizes — our individual recordings to make the music we hear virtually each Sunday. I am filled with gratitude for our musicians who make our Sunday services happen, and to my husband John, who frequently nudges me from sadness to gratitude.

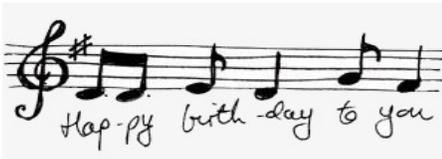




Faith Lutheran Church dedicated the many new improvements to it's building, thanked volunteers, observed the Reformation and celebrated Holy Communion on Oct. 25. Pandemic protocols were carefully observed to protect the 20 or so participants.

You will note the ladder in the picture. Greg Harris climbed up and nailed the last nail – a golden nail, by the way – into the new siding pieces during the service.

BIRTHDAYS!



- | | |
|----|------------------|
| 6 | Danielle Totman |
| 9 | Austin Cassayre |
| 10 | John Butruille |
| 10 | Dick Dickenson |
| 17 | Laurie Peek |
| 17 | Teddy Rieke |
| 21 | Terry Leverenz |
| 21 | Sasha Morgan |
| 22 | Greg Steeber |
| 23 | Shirley DeCourcy |
| 25 | David Nierman |
| 28 | Lindsay Camp |
| 29 | Winnie Camp |
| 30 | Dan Wilkinson |

