

# Life of Faith

February 2020

Published monthly for Faith Lutheran  
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## FROM PASTOR NANCY.....

"I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war, that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality...I believe that unarmed truth and UNCONDITIONAL LOVE will have the final word."

This quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is the perfect introduction to the month of February: *Black History Month*. February is a busy month; we celebrate *Presidents' Day, Chinese New Year and of course, Valentine's Day—the celebration of romantic love.*

The month ends with *Ash Wednesday* on February 26. On that day, we will begin the journey to that day when the UNCONDITIONAL LOVE of God is poured out on the cross. That path will end with God's final victory over death—the resurrection of Jesus Christ. For God so loved the world...

## HOW TO PRAY

The only prayer you need to say is "Help!"

It's right to the point. It describes what we need. And when it comes from a heart that is broken by its own failures, it moves God to the very roots of the divine nature and God responds. It is not a question of forgiveness because God has already forgiven us as soon as we want to change, but to give us the ability to be free of the straitjacket of the emotional programs for happiness based on those instinctual needs [for security, control, and affection]. . . (*Richard Rohr*)

## GETTING TO KNOW THE O'SHEA'S

It would be hard to find a more delightful couple than Brian and Tracy O'Shea. Their history is fascinating. They come to Faith Lutheran from St. Paul's, the ELCA congregation in Quincy. The church there was mainly farmers and through the years, the O'Sheas saw the church, once home to many young people, diminish, as has happened in so many congregations. With 85% of the Quincy population being Hispanic, many of the residents are Roman Catholic.

Brian was raised Catholic and Tracy grew up in Protestant churches. They were not active in a church until after their marriage in 1985. As parents to three daughters, Nichole, Sarah and Brandi, they decided to seek out a church that would fulfill their needs. Their visits to a Missouri Lutheran congregation in the area did not feel right as their church home and they eventually became active at St. Paul's.

For many years their lives centered on farming. Tracy grew up on a dairy farm and Brian spent many long hours baling and stacking hay on their 600 acres. Brian tells of taking a sleeping bag with him at times to catch a few hours of sleep. "I was often exhausted" he smiled. He also worked as co-manager of an onion processing plant. Over the years they rented out part or all of their acreage, sometimes buying more land and at other times selling off acreage. Tracy and their daughters worked in the fields with Brian and also took care of the animals.

Besides these duties, the couple acted as foster parents to children who needed respite care. Because of this, they became interested in a program called Project Hope. One year this non-profit brought 200 children from Russia to the Northwest. Half of them were sent to Portland

and the other 100 remained in Central Washington. The project required two visits with the child you wanted to adopt, so the second visit required a trip to Russia near the Black Sea. "Don't stand out" they were told

"Wear grubby clothing, nothing fancy."



After their visit to the Russian orphanage, they committed themselves to adopting a pre-school son named Egor whom they renamed Isiak.

"The care these children need is overwhelming" Tracy says. For six years Isiak was part of their family and eventually he went to live with a Portland family who had Russian ties. At 25, Isiak remains in touch with the O'Shea family.

Tracy has been interested and active in care-giving jobs, including at the hospital in Quincy. She helps with the care of a grandson, goes to Quincy once a week to help the woman's group at St. Pauls make quilts (200 a year, she says). Brian has served on the Council and as treasurer at St. Paul's. The couple is very happy to be attending FLC. Brian says, "It's so nice just to be able to come in and worship without having all the duties of caring for the church. For now, that's what we need. We like Pastor Nancy very much." They are looking forward to doing some camping and travel now that they are "retired."

## REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

The Council met on January 21 to plan the annual meeting scheduled for February 2. The proposed 2020 budget was presented by treasurer Greg Steeber. The congregation has been very generous in their giving the past year. The Council is looking for an individual who will act as a liaison between FLC members and Deanne when there are messages that should be announced. Possibilities for youth ministry were discussed as well as having an associate member chosen to be on the Council. Reports were given on a new sound system and seat cushions for the pews. The next meeting is February 18.

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2: The annual congregational meeting and potluck meal after worship. This is an important meeting and we encourage your attendance.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 is the due date for ministry questionnaires. The stewardship team is conducting a survey designed to help update our strategic plan. Ministry groups have been invited to have conversation and collectively complete the survey questions. Individuals are also welcome and strongly encouraged to complete a form independently. The questionnaire is available in the narthex as well as on request at mary.steeber@gmail.com.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 is Mardi Gras 2020! **FAT TUESDAY!** The stewardship team is planning a celebration as the Epiphany season ends and Lenten disciplines begin. New Orleans style gumbo and beverages will be provided. Salads are potluck. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26: Lent begins with an **Ash Wednesday service** at 7:00 pm. Beginning March 4, a soup supper will precede the Lenten services. You may sign up in the fellowship hall if you want to provide soup.

### EARTH STEWARDSHIP

Eight members from FLC meet monthly to discuss earth-care projects, especially in Leavenworth. Let us remind you of recent projects: We have had three bottle-filling water fountains installed at various locations and are raising funds for several more. We are pleased that the 96 solar panels on the Middle School are a result of our concern. The blue recycling bins around Leavenworth are another example of what a small group working together can accomplish.

Our goal is to become a "Creation Care Congregation" of the ELCA, cultivating a climate

of earth care in our community. We want to support the local Waste Loop organization working on possible ways to recycle glass and finding ways to engage the local restaurants in food waste recycling. We have money set aside to enable Barbara Rossing and Lisa Therrell to conduct workshops on environmental issues throughout the Synod. (*Swedish Greta has shown the world how one person can make a big difference.*)

February 6 is the next meeting date. Come and join us in the fellowship Hall.

## REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONT.

### GRUNEWALD GUILD

**2020 ART EXHIBIT** will be presented at the Guild beginning in February. The exhibit will celebrate the Guild's 40 years since it began with Rich and Liz Caemmerer in 1979. This exhibit is an important part of how we live out our mission: to welcome and inspire all who seek to explore the relationships between art, faith and community.

It is our hope that the exhibit celebrates the diverse gifts of our community. How do you see your creative work as it relates to *Forest Vision*? You are invited to submit visual art pieces from natural to abstract, humorous to serious, using the theme Forest Vision. For more information please contact Courtney Rutzer at (360)689-2249.

### IMMIGRATION JUSTICE

There is widening concern about the care, or lack of care, for the refugees from Central America. Laurie Peek is in Guatemala, taking \$3500 given by FLC members. The money will be given to the non-profit organization *CEIPA*, which supports the children in Guatemala with particular emphasis on education. If you have not had a chance to contribute, you may do so through the offering at Faith Lutheran. This is an important need and one way in which we can "do something." If you contribute via check make it out to FLC and put *CEIPA* in the corner.



### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT about recycling

Leavenworth now has a way to recycle glass, thanks to Ariaahna Jones and the Waste Loop group. Glass must be clean and free of plastic and foil. After the glass is crushed, it is currently being utilized for fill and added into other landscape design elements. Foil on the top of wine bottles can be easily removed with a knife or scissors. Plastic labels can be removed if you gently heat the bottle in water. Since this is a pilot project, times for collection will be announced. Watch for it.



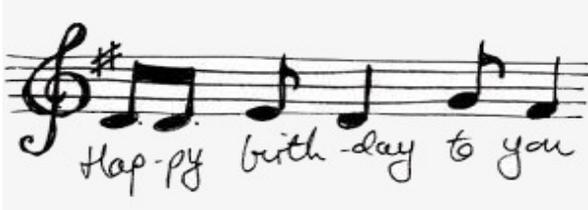
**ABOUT US**

**Dick Dickinson** has had a difficult month health-wise. He was taken to the hospital early morning on January 4 and eventually diagnosed with a severe case of flu and then pneumonia. He was in and out of the hospital several times and will go home only when he has the strength. Check with Rosaleen to see if you can assist in any way.

**Laurie Peek** left January 20 for several weeks in Guatemala. She is taking the financial donations from FLC to be used in that country. Laurie will return the end of February bringing to Jubilee 'fair trade' crafts.

At the end of January, **Trudy and Terry Leverenz**, plus Lucy the dog, began a six week trip in their R.V. to McAllen, Texas where they will work with refugees on the border in a resettlement program. Please keep them and Laurie in your prayers.

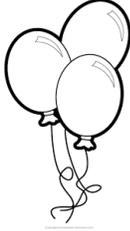
As part of medical school training, **Greta Steeber** spent the month of January in Uganda and Rwanda. Her course in social medicine looked at the socioeconomic dynamics of healthcare with particular emphasis on social justice through praxis, personal and partnership.



**February Birthdays**



- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Lisa Therrell     | 20 Joshua Brulotte  |
| 3 Beth Platt        | 23 Nancy Bywater    |
| 6 Mary Carol Nelson | 24 Dottie Smallbeck |
| 13 Leesa Broker     | 25 Danny Thomassen  |
| 14 Geoff Richardson | 26 Carson Rieke     |
| 18 Sean Keenan      | 27 Doris Nierman    |



## **REQUESTS**

- We would like to know the birth dates of those in our congregation. If you have not received a birthday card during the past year from FLC, please send your birth date to [schramm@nwi.net](mailto:schramm@nwi.net). Thank you.
- Please consider signing up for cleaning the church. There are not many who have agreed to take on this task. A reminder that the fellowship hall and restrooms are also part of this task. Let Deanne know if you are willing to take a turn.
- Snow shoveling is also needed
- The Earth Stewardship group reminds us that if you are throwing your compost down the disposal, please take the time to bring your compost garbage to church and put it in the compost buckets in the fellowship hall entrance.

## **CONTACTS FYI**

If you have an interest in, or perhaps a question regarding the groups at Faith, these are the people you can contact.

- CHURCH COUNCIL: *Bev Cagle, Eric Krumland, Greg Steeber, Rosaleen Dickinson, Connie Thomassen, Karl Kranz, Mara Merritt*
- STEWARDSHIP TEAM: *Bill Moody, Joan Shumate, Mary and Greg Steeber, Lisa Therrell, Dan Wilkinson*
- ENDOWMENT: *Danny Thomassen, Rosaleen Dickinson, Leesa Broker*
- IMMIGRATION JUSTICE: *Laurie Peek, Trudy and Terry Leverenz, Mara Merritt, Alex Schmidt, Sherry Thompson, Meleah Butruille, Marcy Ostrom, Pr. Nancy. plus others not from FLC*
- EARTH SEWARDSHIP: *Margaret Neighbors, Bev Cagle, Kate Farrar, Barbara Rossing, John and Mary Schramm, Leesa Therrell, Karen Strom*
- PROPERTY MAINTAINANCE: *Dan Wilkinson, Zeke Reister*
- BUILDING COMMITTEE: *Greg Steeber, Reed Carlson, Lois Eulberg, Dawn Kranz, Greg Harris, Dory White, Zeke Reister*
- GREAT DECISIONS: *Susan Butruille*
- ALTAR GUILD: *Dawn Kranz, Leesa Broker, Bev Cagle, Lindsay Camp, Rosalyn Francis, Margaret Neighbors, Joan Shumate, Mary Steeber, Susan Sturms, Connie Thomassen and Becky Wilkinson.*
- HOSPITALITY: *Judy Derpack (sign up for coffee hour in fellowship hall)*
- WORSHIP: *Amy and Reed Carlson, Judy Huett-Harris, Susan Butruille, Mary Schramm, Nadine Sanders, Greg Steeber, Pr.Nancy*
- OTHER GROUPS include *Bible Study, Book Group, Listening for God, Knit Wits and Quilting, as listed on the calendar. Check with Pastor Nancy*

## **JACK (LEESA) OF ALL TRADES !**

*Leesa Broker deserves our thanks for all of the unseen tasks she does to keep FLC running smoothly. From purchasing candles to kitchen and bathroom necessities, fixing or cleaning, she stays alert to our needs.*

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> <u>9:30</u> WORSHIP ANNUAL MTG. AND POTLUCK  <u>6:00</u> GREAT DECISIONS	<b>3</b> <u>5:30 –</u> <u>6:45</u> YOGA  6:30 – 8:00 FREE CLINIC	<b>4</b> <u>8:00</u> BOOK GROUP	<b>5</b> <u>10:00</u> BIBLE STUDY <u>1:30 – 3:00</u> KNIT WITS <u>4:00 – 5:00</u> LECTIO DIVINA <u>5:00</u> WORSHIP COMMITTEE	<b>6</b> <u>4:00 – 5:00</u> S.A.G.E.  <u>7:00</u> EARTH STEWARSHIP	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <u>10:00 –</u> <u>12:00</u> VALENTINE COOKIE DECORATING PARTY
<b>9</b> <u>9:30</u> WORSHIP  <u>6:00</u> GREAT DECISIONS	<b>10</b> <u>5:30 –</u> <u>6:45</u> YOGA  <u>6:30 –</u> <u>8:00</u> FREE CLINIC	<b>11</b> <u>8:00</u> BOOK GROUP  <u>6:30</u> IMM. JUSTICE	<b>12</b> <u>10:00</u> BIBLE STUDY <u>1:30 – 3:00</u> KNIT WITS <u>4:00 – 5:00</u> LECTIO DIVINA	<b>13</b> <u>4:00 – 5:00</u> S.A.G.E.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <u>9:30</u> WORSHIP  <u>6:00</u> GREAT DECISIONS	<b>17</b> <u>5:30 –</u> <u>6:45</u> YOGA	<b>18</b> <u>8:00</u> BOOK GROUP  <u>6:30</u> CHURCH COUNCIL	<b>19</b> <u>10:00</u> BIBLE STUDY <u>1:30 – 3:00</u> KNIT WITS <u>4:00 – 5:00</u> LECTIO DIVINA	<b>20</b> <u>10:00</u> STEWARDSHIP <u>4:00 – 5:00</u> S.A.G.E. <u>5:30</u> LISTENING FOR GOD	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <u>9:30</u> WORSHIP  <u>6:00</u> GREAT DECISIONS	<b>24</b> <u>5:30 –</u> <u>6:45</u> YOGA  <u>6:30 –</u> <u>8:00</u> FREE CLINIC	<b>25</b> <u>8:00</u> BOOK GROUP  <u>6:00 – 8:00</u> MARDI GRAS PARTY	<b>26</b> <u>10:00</u> BIBLE STUDY <u>1:30 – 3:00</u> KNIT WITS <u>4:00 – 5:00</u> LECTIO DIVINA <u>7:00</u> ASH WED. WORSHIP	<b>27</b> <u>4:00 – 5:00</u> S.A.G.E.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

- Please see other side for specific information

Faith Lutheran Church  
PO Box 418  
Leavenworth, WA 98826

#### Calendar Details

FREE CLINIC - This weekly ministry is run by volunteers, many from FLC. Contact M.E.N.D. office for information: 548-0408

BOOK GROUP - Meets weekly at church. Contact: John Schramm 548-0404 Current book is *Not in God's Name* by Rabbi Sacks.

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE - Provides ESL classes at PUD School. Contact: Laurie Peek 548-7186 or Trudy Leverenz 888-4856

KNIT WITS: Parsonage. Knit, quilt, embroidery or whatever. All are welcome to enjoy fellowship and creativity.

YOGA - Meets in the fellowship hall. Contact: Marcy Ostrom 630-1262

BIBLE STUDY - Meets at the church.

LECTIO DIVINA - Meets in the church sanctuary. A time of sharing and quiet meditation on Biblical texts. Contact: Liz Caemmerer 421-0872

S.A.G.E. - Sexual and domestic violence counseling. Fellowship Hall.

LISTENING FOR GOD - Book / faith discussions. Begins with a happy hour followed by pot luck meal. Contact: Tom Derpack 206-601-7739

EARTH STEWARDSHIP GROUP - Contact: Margaret Neighbors 548-0166

QUILTING - Contact: Trudy Leverenz 888-4856 for location.

*Thank you to Mary Steeber for formatting the newsletter. Please send information for the newsletter to [schramm@nwi.net](mailto:schramm@nwi.net)*



