



Life of Faith

June 2020

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FROM PASTOR NANCY

I was asked to give a snapshot of my activities during the virus. The health safeguards have been challenging for a pastor. My new schedule has been the most difficult. Sermons are completed and the service is recorded and sent to the amazing Camp family no later than Wednesday. This gives them time to edit, add music, readings and visuals. Mondays I snail mail Sunday school materials to Ellen, Zora, Wrena, Ben, Cora, Lola and Violet. Each day I write and snail mail notes to two members of the Faith family. I also check in with people on a regular basis by email and phone. I attend congregational and synod meetings on ZOOM. Wednesdays I send out a chatty letter to the congregation, updating them on happenings, opportunities to participate in worship, community needs and prayer concerns. Thanks to Dan and his John Deere and the fence he and Zeke put up, I have a garden next to the house. Connie and Danny, Dawn, and my #3 son, John have stepped up in a BIG way to clean up the landscaping around the church.

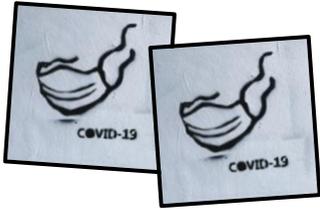
The most meaningful, life-giving part of the day is the time spent in the morning at my little altar. I light the candle, read from Scripture and pray for you, for me, for families, for Leavenworth and the world. I think about what God has to teach us as God walks with us through this pandemic: needs as opposed to wants, blessings in contrast to worldly "stuff" and just who is my neighbor.

God bless us and keep us in God's care. Love, Pastor Nancy



PRAYER (from Daily Prayers for Busy People by Fr. William O'Malley)

My Friend. You make miracles with most unpromising means -
A universe from nothing
A nation from withered Abraham and Sarah
The mother of our Savior from a simple country girl.
I offer myself
with all my impairments and imperfections.
Make miracles with me. AMEN



HELP! I'M STUCK

Again this month we reached out to FLC community about their reaction to the “Stay home, stay safe” edict by our governor with the following questions:

1. What has been most difficult for me being quarantined?
2. What have I learned from this pandemic experience?
3. How will this effect the way I live in the future?

Connie Thomassen What has been most difficult for me is that my 94 year old mother is in a group home with four other ladies and I haven't been able to see her for two months now. Two days ago she was transferred to Tacoma General Hospital. She has been tested and is negative for Covid-19 but is being treated with antibiotics for another infection.

The pandemic has taught me that people matter and many things we considered necessary aren't. Many people are finding it urgent to forgive old wrongs and this is very good. People are giving and helping others in ways that are heart-warming; even children are offering what they do, calling their grandparents or writing messages on their sidewalks to cause you to smile.

Hopefully I will continue to be grateful to God for the things I took for granted. Daily prayer and devotions has been a routine for me for many years and with my faith the strength to continue during the pandemic in the future.

Karl Kranz I find this actually exciting as we innovate. My spouse and I enjoy simplicity and love where we live. This has allowed us to focus more on our lives within walking distance of our home. The thought of inadvertently passing on the virus is difficult for everyone. Others fear the exposure to illness but my work has been a dance with the threat of AIDS, Ebola, Hepatitis C, MRSA, and other pathogens for decades, many more deadly or incurable than Corona virus. The thought of inadvertently passing on the virus is difficult for everyone but washing well and moving mindfully mitigates the risk sufficiently. Faith resolves almost all difficulties of quarantine, fills the mind, quells the fears, whispers promises.

I have learned the value of slow joy and how precious each day can be. Those that are close are drawn closer, sunsets are more remarkable, fresh air is worth savoring. Every day is still a good day. I see that scientific evidence is valid to scientists and educated people, other people ask the attendant at the landfill what their view is about all this Coronavirus crap. It's hard for the two sides to find a common ground for discussion. I am reminded that humans are amazing in their acts of compassion and selflessness and given a chance we support each other.

In the future there may be fewer hugs with strangers and more hugs with friends.

Teleconferencing can be very efficient and selecting the right topic and the right group saves a lot of time and energy. My spouse and I are well matched and will continue to enjoy where we live and those that surround us even more. Our local environment has been tested and is not wanting.

FYI - The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) is made up of Synods.

Lisa Therrell, who is a member of the Synod Council explains how and why the organization functions.



1. What is a Synod and what is ours called? How many in the ELCA? There are 65 Synods in the ELCA that are spread out across the United States. Each one serves a geographic region and functions as the liaison between an individual church and the ELCA headquarters in Chicago. Our synod is the **Northwest Intermountain Synod**, which changed its name a year ago from Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod to reflect that we also have two churches in Wyoming and one in Ontario, Oregon. Our new logo reflects the mountains and plains of our region.
2. How is a Bishop chosen and what is the length of call? The bishop is elected (called) by congregational delegates at Synod Assembly and serves a term of six years. Bishop Kristen Kuempel was elected two years ago. We are in Region One which also includes Oregon, Western Washington and Alaska synods.
3. How many congregations in our Synod? Ninety three, which sounds like a lot, but it isn't. Synods in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area have over 250 congregations, all within about a 1 hour drive of each other! Our synod is one of the geographically largest synods.
4. How often does the Synod meet and who is involved in the meeting? Delegates elected from each congregation assemble once a year at a Synod convention. However, at our last synod assembly, a resolution was approved to experiment with an every-other-year assembly (to save money) and have regional gatherings on the alternate year that are open to everybody. Sadly, our regional gatherings for 2020 are all canceled due to Covid-19.
5. Explain our involvement with other countries. Just like Faith Lutheran, our synod helps support Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran World Relief, all of which support people in need. Young people from our synod can volunteer for a year with Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM), which is the Lutheran equivalent of Peace Corps. We also have a Companion Synod relationship with the Ulanga Kilombero Diocese (UKD) in Tanzania. All Lutheran synods except Alaska have one or more companion synod relationships in different parts of the world. Our value in how we partner is "accompaniment" to reflect that this is a friendship of mutual respect and equality.
6. What has our Synod done in the past of which you are proud? Looking at the breadth of ministries across this synod makes me so proud to be part of the justice-oriented Lutheran tradition. With very limited resources our congregations are providing food, affordable housing, homeless services, day cares and preschools, veteran support, LGBTQ support, refugee and immigrant support, resisting white supremacist activities and so many other things. I am currently serving on a committee awarding Covid-19 support to help these ministries continue.

EARTH STEWARDSHIP CONCERNS:

- Waste Loop has been taking glass for recycling on Wed. and Fri. Currently their crusher needs repair so has suspended this service. Please check the Waste Loop facebook for when they open again.
- The *Living Lutheran* magazine will feature congregations who have strong environmental ministries in their Aug. issue. They have contacted us for information regarding what we do here at Faith. If you would like to subscribe to this Lutheran magazine, please contact Deanne.
- People in the U.S. use more electricity on air conditioning than the rest of the world combined.
- There is a good side to the pandemic. Carbon produced by moving vehicles has diminished and cities like Wuhan, China are becoming free of the smog under which people have lived for most of their lives.



STEWARDSHIP

We have not worshiped together in a physical space for many weeks but our pastor reminds us that the ministry of Jesus Christ continues in the hearts and deeds of our community. FLC continues to be stable financially due to reserves that have been built up over the last couple of years and the Paycheck Protection Program monies that were received in April. Our offerings, however, have fallen by \$ 2-3000 per month for the past two months. Some people have switched to on-line giving which insures regular contributions and is helpful for ongoing needs. Others have been sending checks to PO Box 418 which is also very helpful. Donations can also be made through our website ficleavenworth.com. Please consider keeping up your support of FLC's ministry as you are able as our needs and the needs of the ministries that we support continue.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6 Tracy O'Shea	22 Barbara Rossing
12 Trudy Leverenz	27 Jim Drees
13 Bev Cagel	27 Patty Hebert
13 Alex Schmidt	29 Mara Merritt
20 Lauren Richardson	

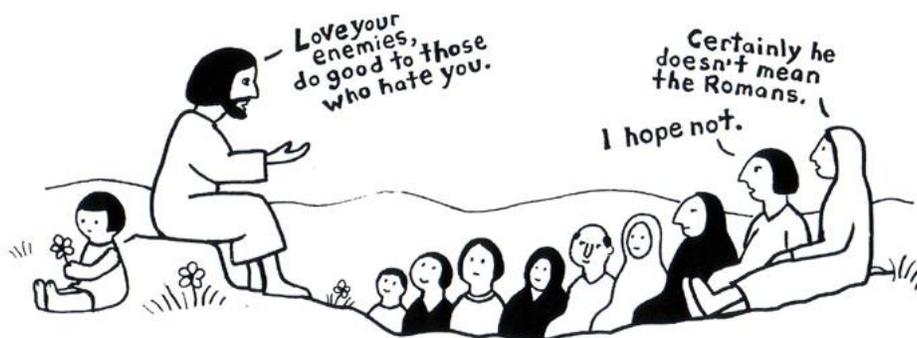


The Jedi in me says, "The force be with you."
The Lutheran in me replies, "and also with you."

ABOUT US

A number of beloved people are leaving us. Saying goodbye is hard but we have been blessed by their presence in our community and we are grateful.

- It is with heavy hearts that we hear **Trudy and Terry Leverenz** will have sold their house on June 12 and are moving across the mountain to Lacey to be an hour closer to their son. They plan to leave this summer. How we will miss them! A farewell drive-by was held at their home on Tuesday, May 26. **Sherry Thompson** has graciously given them a place to camp when they come to Leavenworth.
- **Dick and Rosaleen Dickenson** came back home May 11 after spending several weeks at their daughter's home. Dick's health has improved but he has still fallen on occasion. We are grateful they are living closer to us for the present. The bad news is that Dickinson's plan is to move back to the west side in the not too distant future. This will be another very sad day for the FLC congregation. They have been part of our faith family for 25 years and are loved by everyone.
- If you have driven by the church recently, you will see the result of work and generous donations by **Pr. Nancy and her son John, Connie and Danny Thomassen and Dawn Kranz**. Thank you very much!
- **Ann and Marv Hinz** is yet another FLC couple who have plans to leave the area. They are selling their home on Cherry and planning to move to the Bellingham area to be closer to family. Ann and Marv, we will miss your presence at Lectio and worship. Thanks for being part of our Lutheran family.
- And yet another transition for the FLC community. The Grunewald Guild Board has announced a director transition. **Jim and Vonda Drees** began as Guild directors in 2016 and planned to be in that position for 4-5 years. Given that that time has come, compounded by a deep desire to be closer to their kids and parents, this transition has been a conversation with the board for some time now. Their departure timing is flexible to best serve the Guild and it's likely to happen sometime between November 2020 and March 2021. Jim and Vonda thank FLC for the prayers and support given to them.
- **Liz Caemmerer**, still struggling with health issues, now has the presence of her daughter, Kathie and son-in-law Mark Bach living with her in Plain. The Bachs will be installed as directors of Holden Village in September. Please continue to keep Liz in your prayers.





It's 8:53 on Sunday Morning!

I better get ready for church.

What shall I wear?

No, I wore that shirt last Sunday!

Don't want people to think that I am not able to take care of myself!

Blue jeans?

TOO INFORMAL!

But that's what so good about Faith!

None of this stiff collar business!

Come as you are!

BUT!

Even without coronavirus,

I still would not be able to attend!

DARN!

Well, I have 20 plus years of good Sunday morning memories!

MISS YOU ALL!

Alan (Whittemore)

FACEBOOK FUN



We just celebrated Ascension Day. You know, the day Jesus began to work from home.

I just ordered from Amazon, a chicken and an egg. I'll let you know.

Her husband told her she should embrace her mistakes, so she hugged him.

I feel much better now that I have given up hope. (*Ashleigh Brilliant*)



We continue to appreciate the formatting work Mary Steeber does. If you have something you would like to contribute to the issues, email schramm@nwi.net

