

Life of Faith

September 2020

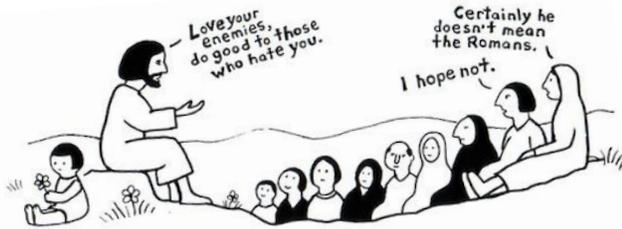
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FROM PASTOR NANCY

In these uncertain times, I turn to the Psalms for hope. Psalm 33: 20-22 reads "Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield. Our heart is glad in him because we trust in his holy name. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you."

We receive so many conflicting messages from those in authority and media pundits, life becomes even more stressful as we struggle against the pandemic. I confess I have spent time praying for what I want God to do for me. I realized I should be asking God for what God expects of me. What always comes to mind is one of my favorite Bible verses: Micah 6:8 "O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

How we live out these "requirements" is not one size fits all discipleship. Our gifts vary but are equal in value. During this critical time in our history, we can support our community with the gift of our time (volunteering where help is needed), the gift of relationship (checking in on friends and neighbors) and the gift of financial support (Faith Lutheran, ELCA global missions, and MEND). Let's get out of the boat, take Jesus' hand and deal with the storms and waves of life in the time of the Corona virus. God bless you. Pastor Nancy



THANKS TO THE CAMP FAMILY

It is difficult to imagine the time and energy it takes to make meaningful worship experiences for our quarantined community. The Camp family continues to faithfully serve as worship coordinators. Thank you! Thanks also to the musicians and readers who have volunteered to help with these services.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING (via Zoom August 13)

- Pastor Nancy shared some of the many ways in which she continues to minister to our community. Not least are the weekly Sunday School activity packets she prepares and sends to our kids.
- Building/repair projects were reviewed and appreciation expressed for the many dedicated volunteers who are making them possible (see property report below).
- Finances remain stable due to healthy reserve accounts and well-controlled expenses (report below). We are encouraged to continue with our regular, faithful giving.
- Several opportunities to stay connected and support our ministry groups were discussed. A 'bring or take' produce sharing will take place on Wednesdays from noon to 7:00 p.m. Items can be left or picked up from the fellowship hall red bench. Pastor Nancy will take the leftovers at the end of the day to MEND.
- There is interest in forming a zoom gathering of Earth Stewardship and book study. If you are interested in participating in such a group or are interested in hosting another group, call Pastor Nancy, Greg or Bev.
- We are planning for socially-distanced ice cream events "after church" on Sundays as a chance to connect with friends and enjoy a cool treat.
- Next meeting: September 17th, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Please remember that the FLC community is welcome to council meetings. In these pandemic days, please express your interest to Bev Cagle so you can be invited to the meeting.

TREASURERS REPORT (Greg Steeber)

Giving for the month of July was again less than our budgeted amount by about \$5,000. Looking back over the last few years, this is not unusual for the summer. We assume the giving will pick up again when Fall arrives. Bills are starting to come in for the deferred maintenance on the church building and we have money in our 2020 budget reserves to pay these bills. Moving forward, regular giving is important. Please consider maintaining your giving as possible. Contact Deanne at flcleavenworth@gmail.com or treasurer Greg Steeber if you want to set up automated giving. We also continue to accept checks sent to PO Box 418, Leavenworth, WA 98826.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT (Greg Steeber)



Most of the painting of the exterior walls is done. A professional company has been hired to paint the higher, hard to reach walls such as the steeple. This should be done by the end of August. The windows have been re-glazed thanks to Amy and Reed Carlson and now need to be cleaned, repaired and painted. The roofing job is being worked on now and should be done by the end of August. Different attic ventilation is being researched as we no longer will have a roof that provides its own ventilation. Metal grates will be installed in front of the main doors this Fall to help protect the doors and the foundation. The school district will be removing the playground items and re-using them at one of the schools.

BEIRUT CONCERNS (Susan Butruille)

Some of our FLC community remember Sarah Jaroush, the Lebanese exchange student who lived with Tony and Meleah and family several years ago. Sarah was deeply touched by the acceptance and affection she experienced at FLC. Sarah graduated from university and now lives in Beirut which, as you know, recently was decimated by an explosion, where thousands of people were left homeless, including refugees from Syria. Sarah and her family are OK though Sarah says her aunt's house was shattered and

her uncle had a minor injury. "Beirut is grieving" she says.

Beirut and Lebanon will need a lot of help for a long time. When asked about how to help, Sarah referred me to *Just Giving*, a reliable NGO https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lebanon-relief?utm_term=PYp7gXzyD Also **Lutheran World Relief**, 700 Light Street, Baltimore, MD 21230 or online at [donate.lwr.org](https://www.lwr.org).

In this time of pandemic, the terrible explosion in Beirut is one more thing this brave country faces.

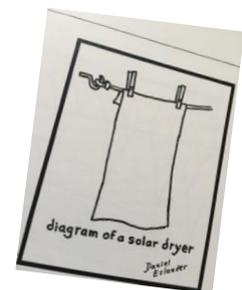
LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF TRAGEDY

Lutheran World Relief has long been known for service to those in need and particularly their ministry of making and distributing quilts. While waiting for distribution in Beirut, Lebanon, 47,000 hand-made quilts in three containers were destroyed in the recent explosion. May we continue to support the efforts of Lutheran World Relief in any way we can.

TEACH
PEACE

LIVING LUTHERAN

The theme in the August issue of *The Living Lutheran* (<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>) was Care for Creation. The efforts of our congregation were highlighted along with others throughout our country who are intentional about tending the care of our earth. Please see pages 24-26 if you have not already read it. You will see a lovely photo of our mugs created by Dawn. May God continue to bless all of our efforts.



LET YOURSELF REST (Mary Schramm)

I woke up feeling depressed this morning. Why should one who had been active in life suddenly feel an emptiness with no clear picture of how to spend yet another day living in this pandemic? What has happened to my faith? I found these words from Jeff Foster a helpful answer to my dilemma.

*If you're exhausted, rest.
If you don't feel like starting a new project, don't.
If you don't feel the urge to make something new,
just rest in the beauty of the old, the familiar, the known.
If you don't feel like talking, stay silent.
If you're fed up with the news, turn it off.
If you want to postpone something until tomorrow, do it.
If you what to do nothing, let yourself do nothing today.*

*Feel the fullness of the emptiness,
The vastness of the silence
The sheer life in your unproductive moments.*

*Life does not always need to be filled.
You are enough, simply in your being*

ABOUT US

We join the organization, Super Lawyers, in congratulating **Russell Speidel** for being named one of the top 5% of best lawyers in Washington. Russ has been named to this group since 2007.

Following the death of George Floyd last May, a group called *The Equity Inclusion Working Group* has been meeting to educate themselves to understand race and inclusion and advocating for changes in the community to fill equity gaps. **Karen Francis-McWhite** leads this group. If you are interested in participating, please call her at 607-3167 or email info@ourvalleyourfuture.org.

Jim and Vonda Drees will be leaving the Grunewald Guild. We have been happy to have them as part of our worshiping community. Vonda and Jim have full plates with hosting the online summer programming and coming up with new plans for the Fall. Their timing is

flexible at this point. They have offered to the board that the new director(s) can transition in any time between Fall and early Spring.

Becky Wilkinson is retiring from teaching. "I decided it was time to enjoy life a bit more, and honestly, the thought of distance school counselling defied my imagination" she says. In response to the question "As an educator, how do you feel about the present pandemic educational system?" she replied, "While I have thoughts about how school is looking, I'll withhold my opinion because it will happen the way the higher powers (not to be confused with The Higher Power) think it should. I will ask that our most vulnerable students (those in abusive and poverty-stricken homes) be at the top of the prayer lists, as well as all those who have to work from home while managing their own at-home children."

Thank you Becky for faithful service to our children and community.



New addresses:

Judy and Bill Moody: 727 Sumner Ave., Sumner, Wa. 98390

Rosaleen and Dick Dickinson: 2701 Cody Circle, Bellingham, WA 98225 – Dickinsons have found a place to live not far from the facility where Dick is currently staying.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Karen Haddon
8 Greta Steeber
15 Caleb Ostrum-Spiegel

16 Heidi Krumland
23 John Agnew
26 Adam Miller

26 Stella Johnson
27 Lorna Ulstrom
27 Chuck Gibbs

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**Repetitive complaining will attract things about which you can complain.
Repeated gratitude will attract things about which you will be thankful.**

*****And remember, as St. Francis de Sales wrote, “We become like the things
we love.”**

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Thank you Mary Steeber for formatting.
If you have something you would like to contribute to the newsletter, email schramm@nwi.net

