



# Life of Faith

**Summer 2020**

Published monthly for Faith Lutheran  
224 Benton St. (P.O. Box 418), Leavenworth WA  
98826

Phone: 509 548 7010 Email:  
[flcleavenworth@gmail.com](mailto:flcleavenworth@gmail.com)

Pastor Nancy Gradwohl, Phone: 425-877-5131  
[www.flcleavenworth.com](http://www.flcleavenworth.com)

## FROM PASTOR NANCY

These past months seem like something of a science fiction film, don't they? A mysterious virus spread throughout the world and brought the most powerful nation in the world to a halt. I am not a fan of science-fiction!! Hasn't this gone on long enough? I am sure I am not alone in wondering why God does not intervene. Maybe the end of the pandemic will come when we repent and turn our backs on the idols of the past—money, self-love, and white privilege. Just maybe God is using this time to humble us and renew our relationship and dependence on Jesus Christ. My idea of blessings has changed during these months. For the first time, in forever, I am so grateful to have a home—a roof over my head, food in the cupboards and a garden to tend. More than that, the time spent at my home altar has brought me into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. I have no predictions to make about the future but I have found peace in trusting in the promises and love of God. We can face the days ahead with confidence that we are beloved, forgiven children of God. God has not, will not forsake us. Shalom.



## FROM WENDELL BERRY

*It may be when we no longer know what to do, we have come  
to our real work.*

*And when we no longer know which way to go, we have begun  
our real journey.*

*The mind that is not baffled is not employed.*

*The impeded stream is the one that sings.*

## ***I CAN'T BREATHE***

I have tried to let this new mantra sink deeply into my consciousness to help me more fully understand what black people feel when they step outside of their homes. What does their fear feel like? Had I been born with dark skin, what are the limits that could not be surpassed, the barriers that had to be overcome?

From my quarantined living room on this summer day, I watch again and again as T.V. replays the white police officer strangling George Floyd, with his knee on the victim's neck as he lies next to a police car in a Minneapolis street. "I can't breathe. I can't breathe," George gasps. How must that feel? Did he want to scream "Why me? Why am I being punished/tortured?"

It is interesting this incident happened a few days before Pentecost. The significance of the outpouring of the Spirit and the victim's inability to breathe should not be lost on us. Was the outpouring of the breath of God waiting for Mr. Floyd's plea? How often have we wanted to cry out, "I can't breathe!" At times I find myself feeling surrounded by an environment that makes me feel helpless, angry, impatient.

Many things frighten me – take my breathe away. It is easy for me to be upset with people who don't feel it is necessary to wear a mask in public. What if someone I loved became ill and I wasn't able to be with them? My anger at the exhibition of racism I see on television also takes my breath away. How

would I react if I needed to work and had been let go of my job? I feel sickened by the disparity of COVID cases relating to race and poverty. I take a deep breath as I watch the many Hispanic members of our community who work in the fruit industry unable to work because of the close contact of the packing sheds. I wonder where they get the money for rent and food. Life seems out of control. Some days I feel that I can't breathe.

This is Holy Spirit time, the time after Pentecost. This is the time when our lungs can be filled with the breath of God. This is when the Spirit that God promises comes into our lives to bring us hope and sustain our spirits. The breath of God is the reason we can live in the promise that God loves us. The invitation right now is to respond to the truth that God's Spirit comes into our hearts and we can be assured that nothing in God's creation can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Never doubt that when we can't breathe, God's Spirit promises to breathe for us.

Mary Schramm, July 2020, Editor of *Life of Faith* for Faith Lutheran, Leavenworth

++++++

## **IS RACISM REALLY THIS THIN?**

Do you realize that our skin is one millimeter thick? This is hardly measurable. Underneath that skin we are all alike. Yet the pigmentation that colors this super thin coating covering our body has caused historical oppression on the earth for millions of years. "Were it not for this very thin layer of our skin we would all appear very similar," observes Dr. Haywood Brown. "Racism is bigotry against the epidermis," he writes. When we think about this, it is almost embarrassing that a millimeter of anything could be responsible for the hatred and prejudice that plagues our society. How does God put up with what we have done with a millimeter of skin?

## TREASURERS REPORT

The financial report has both good news and bad news. The good news is that we are financially stable and still have a strong reserve account. Expenses this year are still running under budget which has been helpful. However, there are several deferred maintenance projects that are starting up soon (see Property Committee report) and our expenses will then move up to the budgeted amounts. The bad news is that the contribution amounts have been going down over the last three months. We are still \$3000 above the contribution budget for the year as several people gave year gifts early in the year but we were \$5000 short in June. There are several reasons that this is probably

happening. One, it is summer and giving usually falls at this time of year. Two, we have not been able to hold in person worship due to the pandemic and that has affected giving. Third, several members of the FLC community have left the area for various reasons and they have found new churches. Additionally, the economy is not doing well and that may be affecting giving. The Council continues to monitor our financial status and as noted, we are still in a strong position. We do encourage our community to continue their contributions, either through checks in the mail or online so that our mission can be ongoing even in this difficult time.

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT (Earthen Vessels)

There are a variety of deferred maintenance projects already completed and some being worked on.



The sanctuary outside walls are being repainted. Two people have been hired for the project with the hope that volunteers will help. Here are volunteers **Ted Fredericks** and **Greg Harris** hard at work! The scraping part of the project started on July 20. If you are available to help, please sign up on the website.

Tree removal and trimming at the parsonage was done on July 15 with the very capable help of **Pastor Nancy!**





The front doors to the sanctuary have been refurbished and repainted thanks to **Reed Carlson, Greg Harris, Dan Wilkinson** and **Greg Steeber!**

Additionally, plans are in place to replace the sanctuary roof in August. A grate in the concrete entry will be installed to protect the doors and the church foundation from moisture and the playground equipment on the north side of the sanctuary will be removed and given to Kodiak Cubs. The fencing in that area will be re-used.

### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

The Council decided to start a pilot project of having a weekly small group meet outside in the area between the sanctuary and the parsonage with appropriate safety precautions on Wednesday evenings starting July 22. Up to six people will be allowed to sign up per week and will bring their own chair, drink and snack. Conversation can be about any topic the group wishes to engage in. No agenda, just a chance to get together safely. An email went out explaining how to sign up but if you missed it, there is information on the website [fcleavenworth.com](http://fcleavenworth.com).

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS: Council members **Eric Krumland** and **Pete Spiegel** are starting a blog for the FLC community. This will be a chance for people to express and share thoughts about what is happening with them during this time that we are unable to physically gather on a regular basis. More information will be coming your way as the details are worked out.

### **STEWARDSHIP**

The generosity of time and talent within the FLC community continues in abundance even during Covid-19. Many hours have been invested in creating online worship opportunities including a large variety of musical talent. Much deferred maintenance is being tended to and the Church Council, Worship Committee, Property Committee and Stewardship continue to meet regularly.

The treasurer's report (pg. 3) indicates that we are still financially stable because generous giving in the past has built up reserves. Looking forward, we need to tend to building financial stewardship as giving is dropping off. The pandemic has drastically changed how we live out our mission as a church and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. We are being called to understand the abundance of God's love new ways. As we move together into this new future, we will continue to rely on the generosity of our community. Please prayerfully consider what you might be able to give on a regular basis to keep our mission alive.

## ABOUT US

**Kjell Baake** has been part of our FLC community. He died May 28 at the age of 87. Kjell's name immediately brings up national ski jump tournaments and international competitions, where he held a world ski jump record of 345 feet. Born into a family of Norwegian immigrants, Kjell had skied since he was 3 years old and spent much of his life promoting skiing in the Leavenworth area. He was active in various Leavenworth boards and participated in Summer Theater and other musical events. A celebration of Kjell's life is planned for September 5 at the Ski Hill Lodge.

In June, **Lisa Therrell** secured \$25,000 from the Lutheran Disaster Relief fund to help local people through the M.E.N.D. Emergency assistance program. Thank you, Lisa, for giving help. Your assistance is deeply appreciated.

**Rosaleen and Dick Dickinson** are moving to the Bellingham area, having spent much time finding a place to live that can take care of Dick's needs.

We continue to be grateful for the time this wonderful couple was with us at Faith.



**Greta Steeber and Nick Wirth** were married in Leavenworth on July 4. Greta is a member of Faith and Pastor Nancy officiated. Greta is in her fourth year of medical school and Nick directs advertising for *Run the World Digital*, working primarily with political campaigns. We pray God's blessing on their marriage.

**Ann and Marv Hinz** moved to Bellingham the middle of July. On Sunday, July 19, a drive-by was organized to say good-bye and wish them God speed. Their new address is 2813 Haxton Way, Bellingham, WA 98226. Phone number is 433-4652. We are so glad to have had them in our congregation the past several years.

**Alan Whitemore's** address is 4123 California Ave. #303, Seattle, WA 98116. His phone number is 206-402-6434

**Trudy and Terry Leverenzs** are settling into their new home in Lacey. Their address is 4630 Meriwood Dr. N.E., Lacey, WA 98516. Phone number is 360-972-2199. Thank you, Trudy and Terry, for the many gifts you shared with FLC.

**Bev Cagel**, our congregational president, had an appendectomy in early July. She has recuperated very well and we send our best wishes for continued recovery.

**Bill and Judy Moody** have moved to Seattle. This news was unexpected by many of us and we are so sad to hear they will no longer be active at FLC. May God bless them in this new transition. Thanks for your participation in the life of Faith. Best love to you both.



## JULY AND AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

July	August
1 Lauren Johnson	3 Judy Derpack
6 Ellen Merritt	11 Tom Durpack
7 Ivy Ostrum-Spiegel	14 Mandi Wickline
8 Lori Brown	17 Karl Kranz
10 Tony Butruille	21 Pam Brulotte
10 Lori Aylesworth	24 Susan Butruille
18 Violet Mae Rieke	27 Kate Farrar
31 Micah Rieke	28 Jaydon Witt

## LET'S GET REAL

*Sometimes you have to let go of the picture of what you thought life would be like and learn to find joy in the story you are actually living.*

*(Rachel Martin, submitted by Karen Haddon)*



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](mailto:schramm@nwi.net)

