



# Life of Faith

April 2021

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## From Pastor Nancy:

A recent daily devotion from Women of the ELCA really struck home! During this pandemic and the practice of social distancing, mail delivery has taken on great importance in my day. I look in the mailbox at least twice a day—is it here yet? The delivery woman probably thinks I am a weirdo as I run out to greet her. Will I get something—a new book from Amazon perhaps? It is such a disappointment when I am passed by or when the only delivery is junk mail. Oh well, I can always count on the arrival of bills in the middle of each month.

Looking in the mailbox is really an exercise in hope; life during this pandemic is just such an exercise. We are challenged to follow daily communications regarding social gatherings and deal with disappointment when we don't get the all-clear message we long for. There will be junk mail to deal with along the way—false information about vaccines, masks and social distancing that we cannot waste time with. We can take action, remove that sense of anxiety that attaches itself to hope and focus on Jesus Christ who is present with us at all times, through all things.

Romans 15: 13 “ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## HOLY WEEK

**PALM SUNDAY** March 28: YouTube video service

**MAUNDAY THURSDAY** April 1: YouTube video service

**GOOD FRIDAY** April 2: Limited in-person prayer time 6:00 – 8:00. Please sign up at <https://www.slotttr.com/sheets/18260099> Also, a YouTube service is provided by the NW Intermountain Synod.



In the Easter liturgy we say YES to God's YES. We affirm - the way of Jesus is the way of God! Baptized into Christ, we follow. Alleluia!

**EASTER VIGIL** April 3: Zoom service  
<http://bit.ly/Easterzoom>

**EASTER SUNDAY** April 4: YouTube video service

## COLOR ME IMPORTANT by Judy Derpack

To be engaged we all must feel included and valued. The goal of the non-profit *Color Me Important* program is to engage students by recognizing and celebrating diversity in the classroom and to help every student feel important and valued. Teachers are frequently left to buy supplies for their own classrooms. Basic boxes of crayons and colorful construction paper are often on this supply list. But budget constraints prevent many teachers from fulfilling their true wish lists.



Our Cascade School District (CSD) teachers would love to offer more diverse opportunities to represent their students, 40% of whom are of Latino or other ethnicities, especially when it comes to expressing themselves creatively. Our goal is to help teachers bridge the budget gap and provide students with supplies that more closely represent who they are. Apricot and brown shouldn't be the only two colors to choose. Our goal is to provide all Preschool through primary elementary teachers with a supply kit that will help them celebrate diversity within their classroom and community. The kits include bandages of a variety of skin colors, markers, crayons, and construction paper of a variety of skin colors and rich, colorful books about children and diversity. They arrive in beautiful canvas bags, with the *Color Me Important* logo.

Twenty bags were compiled and delivered to our community on March 10. There were 15 bags delivered to Peshastin-Dryden Elementary, 2 bags to Kodiak Cubs Preschool, 2 bags to the Home link program and 1 bag to Beaver Valley School in Plain.

A longtime friend of mine, Marnie Gray, is a para-educator in the Lake Stevens school district and sees first-hand how teachers struggle with budgeting art supplies. She is a person with an amazing gift for visioning needs

and has the needed skill-set to organize action. The renewed civil rights awareness in Spring 2020 inspired Marnie and her colleague, Chelsey to organize and create *Color Me Important* bags reflecting our diverse communities. She sourced the items from a variety of suppliers and stores wherever she could get the most cost-effective purchase. Her husband even traveled to other towns to get items on sale! I happened to see her FB posts about the effort and reached out to partner with her which is how the supplies got to our community. This was the first time the supplies came east of the mountains!

At the time of delivery, Marnie and Chelsey were able to meet PD Principal Emily Ross, Kodiak Cubs Director Lindsay Camp, and Superintendent Dr. Tracey Beckendorf-Edou who were an immense help in the logistics.

Thanks to the Faith Lutheran Church endowment gift of \$650 and an Empty Bowls grant of \$1,000, we were able to finance and supply all 20 of these bags. We are beyond grateful for your partnership. Please know that the teachers will put all these supplies to good use! Lindsay Camp said that they used the bandages straight away after delivery. Because, we all know that a bandage covers a multitude of 'owies' when our precious ones are so young.

### **CHURCH COUNCIL:** March 18, 2021 meeting

- Guest Lisa Therrell presented information on the Essential Pantry Program and asked the council to consider Faith Lutheran as a site for the program. The Council unanimously agreed. See pg. \_\_\_
- Pr. Nancy has been able to expand her outreach to immunized members of the congregation.
- An in-person prayer time at the church is planned on Good Friday. Volunteers will gather to clean the church on March 27.
- There was discussion about online worship availability in the long term and how to plan financial and volunteer support.
- It was reported that bank balances and reserve savings are stable.
- There continues to be a need for more readers. The community is encouraged to sign up.
- Pending protocols at the time, Pentecost Sunday is the target date for our first in- person Sunday Service.
- The Earth Stewardship Committee requested support for a climate resolution to be presented at the Synod Assembly on April 24. Support was unanimously granted. See page 5.
- Alternative models for the management of the newsletter are being considered and will be discussed further at next meeting.

All Council members are immunized. Next meeting will be in-person at church!  
**April 22, 6:30 p.m.**

### **IMMIGRATION/RACE AND JUSTICE GROUP (I/RJG):** March 11 meeting

- \$500 was approved for a single mom with ongoing health needs
- \$500 approved for a family whose husband has been in detention for over a year and was affiliated with the sanctuary movement at Gethsemane Lutheran, Seattle
- Research is being done to discover organizations that assist newly arrived immigrants at our southern border so I/RJG can provide support to that effort.
- Application submitted to Advent Lutheran in Spokane Valley for an endowment distribution.
- The application process for a 501(c)3 status has proven to be complicated and there was much discussion about how to proceed. A decision will be made at the April meeting.
- The book *Long Pedal of the Sea*, by Isabelle Allende was discussed in February. The next book is *My Grandmother's Hands*, by Resmaa Menakem. Part I *Unarmed and Dismembered* will be discussed on April 15, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in-person at FLC.
- The monthly study support group on anti-racism will continue in person at FLC on the last Sunday of each month, 4-6 p.m.
- The Parque Padrinos will have a Health Fair in the Peshastin school parking lot on April 10. The Columbia Valley Community Health medical van will be present for medical assistance as well as vaccines. On March 22, farmworker vaccinations will be the focus of Confluence Health with "strike teams" going out into the warehouses.
- Migrant Graduation Specialist Program will use some of their \$4,000 grant (designated for Covid affected families) to hire someone from Peshastin and part of Parque Padrinos, to help distribute the funds.

Next meeting: **April 8**  
Book study: **April 15, 6:30** at church

- Update on immigrant families: A single mom continues with medical problems and needs tests not covered by her insurance. I/RJG will provide \$500. Discussion included a review of guidelines for considering requests of assistance.

## A New Ministry – Free Little Essential Pantries!

A small group has been researching a new ministry for Faith Lutheran—starting two Free Little Essentials Pantries, also known as a Blessing Box. The tiny pantries look like a Free Little Library and operate the same way—you can take food and essentials or leave food and essentials. Our plan is to install one pantry at Faith Lutheran and one at the Assembly of God Church in Peshastin where Pastor Jorge Torres has agreed to partner with us. We are looking for volunteers to help either with donating shelf stable food and essentials (toiletries, TP, cleaning products) and/or willing to visit the pantries to maintain and restock. Our goal is to visit each pantry on a near daily basis so they don't become a problem for their neighborhoods. If you are willing to help, please contact Lisa Therrell at [merrymulesears@msn.com](mailto:merrymulesears@msn.com) or at 548-4387. This is a great way to serve our neighbors during Covid and would be a fun way to involve children, teaching community service, sharing what we have and care of our neighbors.



The pantries are not meant to feed the masses—they simply serve as a small safety net or stop gap for a hungry person needing help with their next meal. The Community Cupboard Food Bank does a fantastic job but even with food bank assistance and food stamps, many poor working families come up empty at the end of the month, awaiting their next paycheck. This project is not meant to diminish our congregational and individual support of Upper Valley MEND.

A group of churches in the Wenatchee area has a grant to help others start Blessing Boxes. We will receive two free cabinets from them as well as \$200 per box to help get us started. This project is organized by Tracy Falkner Carlson of the Wenatchee First United Methodist Church. Grace Lutheran is involved and switched to the pantry format when schools were closed and they couldn't deliver weekend backpacks of food for low-income students.

To learn more about this, read this story written by Rufous Woods for The Wenatchee World [Opinion | Rufus Woods: We can grow community through Little Essential Pantries expansion | Opinion | wenatcheeworld.com](#) or check out the national website at [www.freelittlepantry.org](http://www.freelittlepantry.org)

Stay tuned for more details to come!

Contact Lisa Therrell at  
[merrymulesears@msn.com](mailto:merrymulesears@msn.com)  
or 548-4387 if you would like  
to volunteer!

## THE BRAVE SPACE PROJECT

*The Brave Space Project* is a multi-racial, women-led, collaborative, creative team seeking to “redefine outdoorsy” and reclaim belonging for Black, Indigenous and Women of Color (BIWOC). They have recently collaborated on their first film called *Expedition Reclamation*. It is a short documentary highlighting 12 Washington-based BIWOC, including FLC members Zora and Karen Francis-McWhite, exploring their joyful, resilient and transformative relationship to the outdoors as they present counter-narratives to mainstream outdoor culture. More information and ways to support this effort can be found at: <https://www.seedandspark.com/fund/expeditionreclamation#story>



## Faith Lutheran Earth Stewardship submits Resolution for Synod Consideration



At this year’s Northwest Intermountain ELCA Synod Assembly April 24, one item delegates will deliberate will be a resolution submitted by the Faith Earth Stewardship group. The resolution is endorsed by Lutherans Restoring Creation and the Lutheran Action Team of Citizens Climate Lobby. It asks the ELCA to advocate in Congress in favor of legislation that puts a price on carbon pollution, in order to help move the USA towards more renewable energy. All fees collected on fossil fuels would be returned to US taxpayers in the form of a dividend or tax credit to every person.

The resolution also asks congregations and synods to lift up care for creation as an urgent moral priority for Christians, using the ELCA statement on Care for Creation. It encourages congregations to use the ELCA’s document “Carbon Pricing Basics” and resources from Lutherans Restoring Creation, in adult education.

The synod will hold a workshop April 10 on the resolution in advance of the assembly. Professor Jim Martin-Schramm of Luther College, along with Lutherans Restoring Creation board member Barbara Rossing and other speakers, will present at the workshop.

Faith Lutheran’s voting delegates to the synod assembly will be Pastor Nancy Gradwohl, Bev Cagle and Greg Harris. Mary Steeber and Lisa Therrell will also attend as members of the synod council.

For more information, see the March 1 webinar hosted by Jim Martin-Schramm (Mary and John Schramm’s son-in-law) with Bob Lindemeier, a Lutheran meteorologist from Wisconsin, who makes the case for carbon pricing and the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act and says quite wonderfully what a difference a synod resolution made in his synod. <https://citizensclimate.zoom.us/rec/share/aJN4HkOCForpDutRSIFtehHf8dxKeljEAILlytPfNZBREDQyS3rLpP0zihyXRpKX.OjgyAvlfCn9rJcj3>

## BOOK REVIEW:

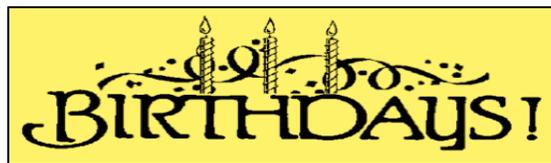
### *The World is About to Turn: Mending a Nation's Broken Faith*

by Rick Rouse and Paul O. Ingram

The Book Study Group just finished reading this book. The authors explore the history of religion in the United States and encourage acceptance of other faith traditions, thoughtful dialogue and mutual respect. Our group was surprised by the focus on building relationships with those practicing other religions, not because that isn't important, but because we perceived the schism in the US to be between Christian White Nationalism and everyone else. The authors touched on this a bit. But what we found most interesting were the Appendices which are described with links here:

- *Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent* recounts and offers an apology for the failure of the church to take a stand against slavery and for civil rights in our past history, as well as pointing a way forward.
- [Slavery Apology Explanation.pdf \(elca.org\)](#)  
[Inter-Religious Policy Statement REVISED 0919 v2.indd \(elca.org\)](#) explores how our Lutheran theological understanding frames our shared values and how we interact with those of other faiths.
- *Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis* that states theological beliefs as well as what we reject: white nationalism, human rights abuses, authoritative rule, abuse of vulnerable people, and "America First." Read the full version at -- [reclaiming\\_jesus.pdf](#) Or read the one page summary. [reclaimingjesus\\_summary\\_clean\\_1.pdf](#)

The group is now reading *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times* by Bishop Michael Curry (presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church.) If you are interested in joining us now or in the future, contact Margaret Neighbors. We meet on Monday mornings at 9:00 via Zoom.



*April*

2 Carl Florea  
8 Evan Butruille  
9 David Morgan

13 Gracie Camp  
14 Eleanor Larmie  
14 Mary Schramm

17 Mary Jo Bartholomew  
28 Amy Carlson