



Life of Faith

March 2021

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From the Pastor:

The second Sunday in Lent, the gospel includes Jesus' invitation: "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up the cross and follow me." When we consider what the cross represented at that time, I wonder if Jesus really expected "any" to accept the invitation! To follow Jesus was to choose the persecution and condemnation of religious and political authorities and finally execution as a convicted criminal.

In the physical world, the way of the cross represented death. In the kingdom of God, the cross ushered in the kingdom of God and the promise of eternal life.

In this Lenten season, the season of giving something up, Jesus invites us to deny ourselves and reject those things that feed our egos; choose justice, compassion, mercy, love for neighbor and self. Like Peter and the first disciples, we are experiencing difficult times—politically and religiously. The days ahead will not be easy for families, neighborhoods, and communities. Taking up our cross is not an easy life choice!

There is great, good news: those who lose their lives for the sake of the gospel, will save it. We have the promise of eternal life. God keeps God's promises.



Join the Faith Lutheran community for worship each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. during Lent. Go to www.flcleavenworth.com and click on the link.

Holy Week service details will be announced soon.

THANK YOU, MARY SCHRAMM

Mary Schramm has managed and edited the monthly newsletter for FLC since November of 2011. That calculates into 120 editions! Mary is an accomplished writer and a thoughtful leader in our community. She has generously shared these gifts through creative writing, humor and reporting of news and events in our newsletter for over a decade. Mary has now decided to step away from her role as editor and it is time to extend our deep gratitude and thanks for all of her faithful and faith-filled work through these years. Thank you, Mary!

Would you be interested in volunteering to be the next editor of the FLC newsletter? Do you know anyone who might be interested? If so, please contact Pr. Nancy or Mary Steeber.

So what now? Here is how it has worked. Mary Schramm plans the content and gathers the information and articles for the newsletter. She sends it to Mary Steeber to format and after final edits, it is published. Mary (Steeber) is willing to continue formatting but there is need for someone to oversee the content planning and technical editing details. In the short-term, please send news and articles of interest to Mary at mary.steeber@gmail.com. In the longer term, please think about who might be interested in taking on the editor's role.



CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

On March 10 at 7:00, Icycle Creek Center for the Arts will feature a documentary about Marie Pantalon, a character in Susan Butruille's book, *Women's Voices from the Mother Lode: Tales from the California Gold Rush*. A question and answer period with Susan will follow the 30-minute French film, which will have English subtitles where needed. French filmmaker François Gaillard interviewed Susan in Lyon, France for *Marie Pantalon, itinéraire d'une pionnière*.

Marie Suize, known in California as Marie Pantalon, was a French-speaking gold miner and winemaker who made her fortune in the California Gold Rush and was arrested -- more than once -- for wearing pants! Soon after her book's release in 1998, Susan performed her solo show as Marie Pantalon in Marie's hometown of Thônes in the French Alps. There, she met Monique Fillion, the village's leading historian, who had shared Marie Pantalon's story with Susan and with California historians. Monique and Susan explored many places together, including Marie Pantalon's California hangouts, places of the Dark Madonna in France and wineries in Tuscany.

For details, go to <https://icycle.org/find-events>.

Susan and Monique Fillion drink to their friendship at a Tuscan winery. Monique's scarf, woven by Liz Caemmerer, was a gift from Susan. After Monique died in 2016, the scarf came back to Susan.

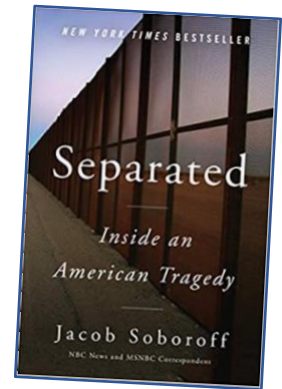


BOOK REVIEW

The Book Study group just finished reading *Separated: Inside an American Tragedy*, by Jacob Soboroff, a news correspondent with NBC News and MSNBC. Soboroff tells the tragic history behind the separation of families at our southern border. This separation began at a small scale (112 people) during the Obama administration, then escalated in 2018 during the Trump administration. The theory was to stem the numbers of families fleeing violence in Central America by making it almost impossible to enter the United States legally and to create a strong deterrent. Merely entering the United States requesting asylum became a felony crime, justifying removing children from parents. At the peak of the separations, there were 100 facilities across 17 states, holding 5,000+ children (including toddlers) in detention in grossly inhumane conditions, with their parents in other facilities, most often in another state. Documentation was woefully inadequate to track and link children and their parents, some of which was by design.

Soboroff tells the blow-by-blow unfolding of this story, as he experienced it while trying to

uncover the truth in order to report in the news. Soboroff follows a family through their immigration trials, chronicles the many Federal agencies and their employees involved, reveals the deceptive practice of presenting legal papers in a language not their own, and unveils the large number of children lost in the system.



An October 21, 2020 New York Times story estimated that 545 children have yet to be reunited with their parents. It may be almost impossible to locate parents who are often in hiding in their home countries due to death threats. At least 50 of these children were less than five years old when separated. Now, with Covid-19, asylum seekers are forced to remain in Mexico, housed in dangerous tent cities.

Pastor Nancy will be adding her book to the FLC library. Lisa and Margaret are happy to loan out their copies of this important book.



IMMIGRATION/RACE AND JUSTICE GROUP: Summary of Feb. 11, 2021 meeting

- Book study: Isabelle Allende's *Long Pedal of the Sea* will be discussed via zoom on Thursday, Feb. 25 at 7:00 p.m. The entire book will be reviewed in this gathering.
- The support group on anti-racism will ask members to review and renew their commitment to monthly meetings.
- The *Parque Padrinos* program has concluded flu vaccinations and now offers C-19 vaccinations. The program continues strong with ongoing hopes of expanding to the Upper Valley.
- The Cascade School District Graduation Specialist Program has received a grant to assist students and their families who have been affected by the pandemic.
- Due to C-19 complications and hindered logistics, the CSD AVID tutoring and mentoring aspect that I/RJG has been involved with is on temporary hold. The group expressed their commitment to continuing when appropriate.
- Immigrant families
 - Laurie reported that a son of one of our families attended his Yakima ICE appointment, accompanied by a lawyer and was "released" with an ankle bracelet and was able to return to work. The next meeting for the two of them is in Seattle in May. His mother continues with debilitating medical issues. Both are experiencing delays in renewing their work permits.
 - The family whose house burned last September is currently living with relatives. They hope to build in the spring as finances allow. Thankfully the parents remain employed.
- The legislative agenda that **Faith Action Network** had for their annual Interfaith Action Day on Feb. 13 was discussed. I/RJG members were invited to participate in the Central Washington "gathering" later in February.

Call Alex Schmidt at 548-7012 with questions or if you are interested in joining this group.

Next meeting: March 11



MARCH

- 2 Ted Fridericks
- 5 Sarah Butruille
- 8 Johnna Rieke
- 11 Kevin Rieke
- 20 Susan Wagner
- 31 Brett Johnson



Hello Faith Lutheran Community!

I would like to introduce myself and my family to you. My name is Ben Thomas. You may have seen my face and those of my family sharing music in some of the virtual gatherings. My family and I moved to Leavenworth this past summer from Southern California. We were introduced to Pastor Nancy and Faith Lutheran through my in-laws, Tom and Judy Derpack. I am a singer/songwriter, music producer and creativity coach (quite a mouthful, right?). I create music and experiences that remind you why you're on this planet - because it's SO easy to lose touch with our connection to our deeper Purpose. If you're interested in checking out what I'm up to, please visit my website <http://www.benthomasonline.com/welcome>

During the season of Lent this year I am creating a series of song-based audio meditations, inspired by some of the themes we encounter at Lent. They are designed to help unblock the flow of the love of God in your life and are posted on both my website and YouTube channel. I hope they may serve you in some way over the coming weeks.

My family and I are excited to be here and I'm honored to be connected with the Faith Lutheran Community. I'm looking forward to meeting more of you in person but in the meantime check out my work or feel free to drop me a note at ben@benthomasonline.com.

Peace and light
Ben Thomas





GRANTS FROM THE ENDOWMENT FUND

The FLC Endowment Fund was able to provide grants to ten different organizations in 2020. The Endowment Committee would like to share the expressions of appreciation and gratitude that have been received from the recipients.

Immigration / Race, Justice Group *We are so appreciative of receiving \$1,000.00 to help support our immigrant neighbors. Our group will determine how these monies can be stretched to help the greatest numbers. Thank you for your support as we try to meet some basic needs of our community neighbors and friends.*

Mandi Wickline was overwhelmed with *happiness* and gratitude for FLC's financial support of her **Cascade School District Drama Program** as student's live performance fund raisers were negatively impacted by COVID during 2020.

Lutherans Restoring Creation from Phoebe Morad in Braintree, Massachusetts: *This is tremendous news, thank you so much to the whole congregation for your support and dedication to our ministry, peace to you all.*

Luceritos C.E.I.P.A. Laurie Peek was doing "back flips" with news of the endowment award. She is so excited to have this opportunity to send financial support to the families in Guatemala.

Dangerous Women: *We are thrilled to receive the endowment award from Faith Lutheran Church which will be matched at 100% by the Icicle Fund. We've proudly positioned you as a supporter on our website and will also post our thanks on our FB page. Maybe, some day when COVID is past, we can perform or present for Faith.* From Rhona Baron, Creative Director associated with Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center, Mandi Wickline and Susan Butruille.

Virtual worship production program: Lindsay Camp is very happy about additional financial assistance for technology upgrades.

Color Me Important Project: Gratitude extended from Marnie Gray of the Cascade School District

Grunewald Guild Brian Johnson expressed appreciation for our support to help them enhance their ability to offer greater hospitality to their guests.

Tumaini Boarding School in Tanzania: Cathy Steiner sent thanks from the Northwest Intermountain Synod for FLC's support of the challenges with COVID-19 at the school.

Ingalls Creek Enrichment Center: Doug Walter sends thanks for the support and says he will keep our congregation informed on some of their planned events during 2021.