



Life of Faith

May 2021

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From Pastor Nancy.....

The gospel lesson for April 18 ended with Jesus telling the disciples that they were witnesses to all they had seen and heard, that Jesus was the promised Messiah and the fulfillment of Scripture. Recently, I read an interesting article about witnessing written by a Lutheran pastor in California. Pastor Susan writes that witnessing is a word that “leaves Lutheran Christians shaking their shoes.”

How, then, do we answer Jesus’ call to be witnesses, especially when we witness to a Savior we have never actually seen? Even the disciples who were present when Jesus reappeared still had their doubts. I think in our modern context, we are often reluctant to come off as religious fanatics, so we remain silent.

Witnesses have taken up much of our news lately. They have been called on to testify in court to what they saw regarding the death of George Floyd. Their “witness” helped jurors learn the truth of what happened and reach a just decision.

It would be helpful if we would regard witnessing about our faith in Jesus as a conversation with another about something that matters to us. Witnessing does not require formal proclamation complete with Biblical references but sharing those times when we were/are aware of God’s power and presence. We can lift our families, our neighbors and our world with our words of hope.

God bless your witness.

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 1: Church yard clean-up

May 23: Pentecost worship indoors pending current Covid protocols

Outdoor worship also pending. Stay tuned!

Church Council Highlights April 2021

- Presentation by Zeke Reister. Zeke advocates returning to outdoor Sunday service as soon as possible. These are consistent with the Governor's rules and would be safe with social distancing and mask use.
- Council suggests starting outdoor services May 9, Mother's Day, if Worship Committee concurs. The first indoor service is planned on Pentecost, May 23.
- Pastor Nancy has continued her outreach to immunized members of the congregation in person. She communicates with the congregation through weekly letters, sermons, voice chats and has met yet more neighbors. Weekly bridge meetings are happening.
- Our bank balances remain about the same. Reserve savings are stable. Revenue continues to be lower than budget, the expenses are stable.
- We plan to continue the online worship after in person services resume.
- Faith received a grant from the Spokane Advent Lutheran Endowment Fund for \$996 to purchase AV software to improve our virtual service presentations. This grant is greatly appreciated.
- The Property Committee will work on some deferred maintenance projects this summer.
- Scholarship applications will be sent out in May.
- There are details to be worked out with the Essential Pantry Program. No new action at this time.
- Church yard cleanup is scheduled for May 1 at 9:30 a.m. Bring gloves, bags and a truck if available.

Immigration/Race Justice Group (I/RJG) Summary, April 15, 2021

- AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) at CSD has established a Scholarship Fund for Seniors to which the I/RJG donated \$300. AVID will have 4 teachers next year.
- A webpage was discussed. There are many questions: monthly costs, a link for donation, content, aesthetics, administration, etc. We will continue working on this project.
- The application for an EIN has been submitted but no response yet. Nevertheless, the group decided that we would not pursue 501(c)3 status any further at this time.
- Book Study: Next book is Reesmaa Menakem's, *My Grandmother's Hands*, Part I *Unarmed and Dismembered*.
- Monthly study support group on anti-racism continues in person at FLC on the last Sunday of each month, 4-6 p.m.
- The Health Fair in the Peshastin school parking lot on April 10 was well received. Twenty-five boxes of food were distributed to families in the CSD Migrant Education Program (MEP). Food was purchased and assembled with the assistance of a Hispanic carniceria in E. Wenatchee, who also donated several boxes. The event was organized by the CSD Migrant Graduation Specialist and the PD principal, in partnerships with Parque Padrinos of Wenatchee. The PUD was present and the Free Clinic provided health related information. There were 4 members of I/RJG among the many volunteers. The Fair was funded by a WA State MEP grant. The hope is to provide such a fair on a regular basis.
- A single mom and her son are still scheduled to appear in Seattle's Federal Immigration Court on May 26. If this stands, some members of I/RJG will be present.

DATES TO REMEMBER
Book study: May 27, 6:30 p.m.
Next meeting: May 20
Call Alex for locations 548.7012

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 2021 GRADUATES



After attending school since Kindergarten in the Cascade School District, Ellie Camp will be graduating on June 5, 2021 from Cascade High School. During her 13-year tenure in the district, Ellie has distinguished herself as a scholar and a performing artist, including memorable performances in *The Wizard of Oz*, *Les Miserables*, and her Apple Award nominated turn as Winifred in *Once Upon a Mattress*. Another highlight of Ellie's high school career has been performing in all the CHS Bands (Concert, Jazz, Pep & Marching) on numerous instruments as well as serving as the Drum Major her senior year. Ellie plans to attend Central Washington University in the fall.



With a steadfast determination to complete her degree within 4 years and accumulate no debt, Gracie Camp will be graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in English Language & Literature from Central Washington University on June 12, 2021. During her time at CWU Gracie was a member of The Douglas Honors College and also played violin in the CWU Symphony. A major highlight of her college career has been working as a tutor for The University Writing Center. While there, she honed her own writing skills while also helping others and made many life-long friends. Gracie's future plans include reading a lot of books, writing, drawing and playing as much D & D as possible.



Greta Steeber graduates from the University of Washington Medical School on May 22 and begins a three-year Emergency Medicine residency program in Portland, OR in June.

Greta graduated from St. Olaf College with a degree in German and Religion before spending a year in Palestine through the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program. She went on to earn a Master of Arts degree from Luther Seminary in church history before taking a job with the ELCA in Wittenberg, Germany and then worked for the Lutheran World Federation in Jerusalem. These varied experiences helped in the formation of her life's call to pursue a medical career.

The History Corner Submitted by: Danny Thomassen



*"There remains an experience of incomparable value. We have learned to see great events of world history from below; from the perspective of the outcasts, the suspects, the maltreated; a perspective of those who suffer. Merely waiting and looking on is not Christian behavior. Christians are called to compassion and to action. We are not to simply bandage the wounds of the victims' beneath the wheels of injustice; we are to **drive a spoke into the wheel itself**. I have discovered right up to this moment that only by living completely in this world that one learns to have faith. This "worldliness" means living unreserved in life's*

duties, problems, successes, and failures. In so doing we throw ourselves completely into the arms of God; taking seriously, not our own sufferings, but those of God in the world." Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran Pastor, Tegel Gestapo SS Prison, Prinz Albrecht-Strasse, Berlin (June 1943)

Bonhoeffer was arrested in his Berlin home on April 5, 1943 by the Gestapo SS and taken to Tegel Prison for the next 18 months. He was never formally charged with a crime, there were no witnesses who came forward to testify against him and he was never provided legal representation. While in prison Pastor Dietrich continued to minister to his fellow prisoners and some of the SS guards. There were a few Gestapo guards who enjoyed his teachings and had sympathy for his situation; one guard began to smuggle his writings out of the prison to his family in Berlin. Bonhoeffer and Lutheran Pastor Martin Niemoller founded the Lutheran "Confessing Church" during September 1933 in direct opposition to the new regime that had come into power earlier that year attempting to consolidate all German Protestant churches into pro-Nazi organizations. Pastor Niemoller was eventually arrested and taken to Dachau concentration camp near Munich where he would remain for almost four years until the end of the war. Pastor Dietrich was later transferred from Berlin to Buchenwald concentration camp in a remote area of central Germany and finally taken to Flossenburg concentration camp where he was executed by hanging at the age of 39 in April of 1945; two weeks before the camp was liberated by American troops.

Reading Source: Dietrich Bonhoeffer: A Biography, Author: Eberhard Bethge, Published: 1967; Translated English 1989.



News from the Ilanga Kilombero Diocese in Tanzania

A year of a Covid economy has been hard on Tanzania and our friends in the Ilanga Kilombero Diocese (UKD). Support from the Intermountain Northwest Synod has helped complete the assembly hall at the Tumaini Secondary School, helped fund a shortfall of teacher salaries when students weren't at the school and most recently, drum roll please, helped the school hook up to the electrical grid, which the Tanzanian government is currently installing. Electricity is a dream come true for the school and its staff and will help enhance the educational experience. Our friend Pastor Moses Nwaka is now the director of the school.

The Lugala Lutheran Hospital has also faced great challenges as a result of the Covid economy. Pharmaceuticals are normally partially reimbursed by the government but without tourists fueling Tanzania's economy, government payments are not coming as

expected. The hospital currently has on outstanding pharmaceutical debt of \$26,000 USD and cannot order more drugs and supplies until this debt is reduced by half. During Lent our synod launched a request for donations to help reduce this burden. So far, \$3,700 has been raised. If you are able to contribute to this need, it is easy to do so on our synod website at <https://nwimsynod.org>. Look for the "donate" button then select "Lugala Med Support."

Watch for a joint worship service with our friends in the UKD. This was originally scheduled for May 2 but we will enjoy a Campus Ministry service instead.

Thanks for your partnership and spirit of friendship with this important and precious relationship.



May Birthdays

9 Zeke Reister
9 Dakota Rieke
11 Margaret Neighbors

19 Oliver Burlotte
20 Becky Wilkerson
21 Derek Richardson

28 John Schramm



What's Happening

Dawn Kranz converted 2 gallons of gifted frozen raspberries into lovely raspberry jelly this month. We know what the Kranz's will be eating this summer!

Beth Pratt and **Karen Strom** may be setting a new local record. They walk half a mile twice a day every day in their neighborhood. Rain, snow, sleet, wind, sunshine and the pandemic have not stopped their rounds.

The Upper Valley MEND Free Clinic started in 2001 by **Faith Lutheran** has resumed operation at Cascade Medical Center each Monday night between 6:30 and 8 p.m. serving under insured and uninsured members of the Upper Valley community for basic medical consultation and care.

Not all who wander are lost.....

Congratulations **Laurie Reister** on her retirement after ten years at the downtown book store. She is now traveling south to Texas with her girlfriend, helping her to move! Laurie will be flying back home after she has helped her friend settle in. Her next quest will be with Zeke as she accompanies him on his adventures.

See you in October **Sherry Thompson!** Sherry is leaving for Homer, Alaska for five months this May and will return in October. Sherry's son will be house sitting here in Leavenworth while she is temporarily away.

Safe travels to all.

From Pete Spiegel.....

In large part, church is where I receive my spiritual nourishment. Over the past year, when there hasn't been church, my spiritual practices have suffered. I have not been very prayerful, meditative or contemplative. I was interested in seeing how other members of our congregation were doing with their spiritual practices: What could I learn from their practices and how could I use this information to influence my spiritual well being. I started out by talking with Carolyn Dorisdotter (my mother-in-law).

Carolyn gets up at 5:30. She finds this to be a quiet time where she will not be interrupted. There are four components to her spiritual time, prayer, meditation, reading, and yoga. Carolyn prays in front of her altar. On her altar are images of God depicted as a woman. Carolyn feels as though the female aspects of god has been overlooked. As she says, "The motherhood of god is as important as the fatherhood of god." She will then meditate for 15 minutes - trying to clear her mind. After prayer and meditation, Carolyn reads. She will read Rumi, the Bible, Brene Brown and many more. Finally she ends her daily practice with yoga. All the while her cat keeps her company, sometimes asleep and sometimes watchful.

Faith Lutheran Earth Stewardship Group Brings Forward Carbon Pricing Resolution

Under the lead of Barbara Rossing, the Faith Lutheran Earth Stewardship Group submitted a Carbon Pricing Resolution to the Northwest Intermountain Synod for consideration and approval, entitled “Care for Creation, Environmental Justice, and Carbon Pricing.” The church council and several pastors in our cluster also signed the resolution. Then what happened got a bit complicated. In accordance with the rules, the resolution was split into two pieces. Synod Council voted to approve a Resolution which goes to the Churchwide Council, requesting that the ELCA advocate for Carbon Pricing legislation in Congress (now and in the future). The bill is called “Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019” which you can read here [H.R.763 - 116th Congress \(2019-2020\): Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#) . This bill has bipartisan support. It has yet to be reintroduced in 2021.



The remainder of the resolution was formatted into a Memorial for synod assembly to consider. A lively debate ensued during synod assembly which alternates those speaking for and against the Memorial. The Memorial was amended and approved with a 70% vote. Here is the text of the final Memorial.

“RESOLVED, the Northwest Intermountain Synod encourages congregations in our synod to actively lift up conversations around climate change; and be it further RESOLVED, that the Northwest Intermountain Synod encourages congregation in our synod to utilize “Carbon Pricing Basics” in adult education offerings; and be it further RESOLVED, that the Northwest Intermountain Synod rededicates itself to care for creation and to advocate for social and environmental justice, using the resources of Lutherans Restoring Creation and other organizations.”

You can access the Carbon Pricing Basics document here. [191030CarbonPricing.indd \(elca.org\)](#)

And explore the Lutherans Restoring Creation website here. [Lutherans Restoring Creation — Welcome!](#)

LWF and ELCA affirm outcome of Leaders Summit on Climate

CHICAGO, USA/GENEVA,
4 /27/2021

(LWI) - In a joint statement, The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) have affirmed the outcomes of the Leaders Summit on Climate as “a step in the right direction.” The summit was convened online on the initiative of United States President Joe Biden from 22-23 April.

However, the commitments made “need to be followed up with a clear plan to bring leaders and nations together in action,” the statement continues. “Until now, Nationally Determined Contributions submitted by Parties were not ambitious enough to limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius and meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.”

“The world needs bold leaders working together,” says LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr. Martin Junge. “No leader or country can solve the climate crisis on their own, but all can contribute to its solution.”

The statement draws a parallel between the current COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis. Both disproportionately affect the lives and livelihoods of people and communities that are already vulnerable. Joint efforts are needed to cope with and address both crises. Measures

to address the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the economic recovery packages, must be “in line with ambitious climate policy and action”, resetting economies on more climate-friendly paths.

“We know that healing is possible – for the planet and our communities,” says ELCA’s presiding bishop Elizabeth Eaton. “As Lutherans, we heed the call and care for the Earth and all its inhabitants. The time is now to remedy the effects of climate change.”

The statement calls on the international community to, amongst others, “recognize the interconnectivity of health and climate change”, and protect the environment and biodiversity. Also, tools to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of food systems must be developed.



Thanks to all who contributed articles and general interest information for this newsletter! We look forward to this continuing. Please forward contributions to Mary Steeber at mary.steeber@gmail.com.