



# Life of Faith

February 2022

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Dear Faith Family,

I don't know how many years of ministry I have left. These past weeks it has been clear to me that I am called to spend them with people living on the margins. I have no idea where this will be, but I am open to the leading of the Spirit. I am resigning my call as the pastor of Faith Lutheran Church; my last Sunday will be February 27.

This has not been an easy decision. I have enjoyed my time here and been enriched in so many ways by this gifted congregation. You also know I am very fond of the little house and the neighborhood. It must seem bizarre that I head off into the unknown at the tender age of almost 83. I believe God isn't done with me yet.

The challenges are huge: very little money, no paying job, no home. This is a walk of faith; I am excited to see what is in my future.

We have shared some good times, particularly outdoor worship. I am delighted it will be repeated this summer. You are blessed with so many gifts—your future is bright.

The NWIM synod office will be walking you through this time of transition. I trust God will see us safely through these changes.

God bless you,

Pastor Nancy Gradwohl

**The Church Council has called a special meeting on Thursday, January 27 to begin the planning process for our leadership transition.**

*Some words to think about by Bill O'Hanlon from Mary Schramm*

Sometimes I just want to stop. Talk of COVID. protests, looting, brutality. I lose my way. Become convinced this "new normal" is real life.

But then I meet an 87-year-old who talks of living through Polio, diphtheria, Vietnam, protests and yet is still enchanted with life. He seemed surprised when I said that 2020 must be especially challenging for him. "No," he said slowly looking me straight in the eyes, "I learned a long time ago to not see the world through the printed headlines. I see the world through the people who surround me. I see the world with the realization that we love big.

Therefore, I choose to write my own headlines. "Husband loves wife today." "Family drops everything to come to Grandma's bedside." He patted my hand. Old man makes new friend.

### Faith Lutheran Church Book Study Group



The intrepid FLC Book Study group will start *We Carry the Fire, Family and Citizenship as Spiritual Calling*, by Richard A. Hoehn on Monday, March 31, 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. Here is a review:

*This brand of spirituality results in tangible outcomes in the real world: less poverty and better health, the restoration of nature, minimization of inequality, optimization of education and opportunity, and the human spirit improved both qualitatively and quantitatively. The author shows how actively engaging in this direct and concrete work, as opposed to an abstract or elusive feeling of spirituality, provides a profound sense of meaning. As we link our lives with humanity's deepest values and highest hopes with people of every kind, in every place, on every day, all over the world, we experience a feeling of being constructive and in solidarity with others.*

*If you are interested in joining our lively discussion group, please call Margaret Neighbors 509 548 0166*

*grateful*

Cascade High School Drama is so grateful to be a recipient of a grant from Faith Lutheran! We plan to use these funds toward the purchase of a wireless microphone. We have 42 middle and high schoolers in our current production of *Peter Pan, Jr.* and 22 of those students need microphones. Each microphone is upwards of \$1000 and this is not something that is funded by the school; last year, we were granted money for several microphones through Cascade Education Foundation. While District HR pays staff stipends and ASB pays for licensing and specific show expenses, the District cannot cover everything we need, and that's where your generosity comes in. After directing over 25 shows with the Cascade School District, I will be moving on from my role as Head Drama Coach after this year. You can catch our production of *Peter Pan* February 10 - 12 at 7:00 p.m. at Cascade High School. Admission is by donation and masks and social distancing are required (our new auditorium seats over 400 so there's room to spread out). Thank you so much for your support over the years. You are much appreciated!

*Mandi Wickline, Speech & Drama Coach*

## CHURCH COUNCIL January 2022

- Guest Lisa Therrell reported from the Endowment Committee. The current Resolution to guide distribution was utilized and \$5000 was granted. A new Resolution based on Synod recommendations will be developed for next year. Current distributions will be reviewed to determine if moving funds might be beneficial in meeting the goals.
- Pastor Nancy continues to stay in contact with the members of the Faith community.
- The parsonage was challenged by snow but neighbors helped dig out Nancy's front and back doors. Luis brought a front loader to clear a path for his snowblower for walkways. All were assisted by the National Guard. In-person worship on January 9 was cancelled because there was no place to park. Lindsay Camp worked with Nancy to produce an online service for the day.
- Giving was above budget in December. Church expenses are down but deferred maintenance on the Fellowship Hall will be needed.
- Paying off the mortgage on the parsonage was discussed again. Monthly interest payment is \$115 and the balance is about \$26,000.
- Treasurer, Greg Steeber, recommends starting a Capital Fund drive for a new parsonage in anticipation of future need. The budget proposal for 2022 will include anticipated expenses for maintenance on buildings.
- Greg Harris and Rosalyn Francis were recommended for Council positions.
- In light of the rapid increase of Covid-19 in the community, in-person worship was discussed. Reluctantly, the Council recommends virtual services through January. Karl will monitor the county health reports weekly and report to Council to help inform future decisions.
- Council approved Upper Valley Connection requests to use the Fellowship Hall on Jan. 19
- The Annual Meeting will be via ZOOM on January 23 at 10:30 a.m.
- The 2022 Budget proposal was presented and includes the following:
  - A 7% increase in Pastor's compensation based on cost of living and experience.
  - Benevolence giving can be increased by \$500 to remain at 10% of contributions.
  - Individual one-time grants/gifts last year will not be figured into the new budget.
  - Administrative salary costs have decreased with volunteers covering shortfalls.
  - The Faith Action Network has been one of our benevolences. The group has disbanded so last year's giving to them will be moved to Council designated giving category.

### ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- There were 41 folks present for the zoom meeting.
- It was approved that the parsonage mortgage from bank balance would be paid off.
- A 2022 budget presented was approved reflecting the mortgage pay off
- The initiation of a committee to develop a capital fund drive for a parsonage was approved.
- Greg Harris and Rosalyn Francis were elected as new members to the Council as well as continuing members Greg Steeber, Jan Monroe and Eric Krumland. Continuing members not requiring reelection are Karl Kranz and Connie Thomassen and Pete Spiegel.
- Margaret Neighbors will join Barbara Rossing and John Schramm on the Nominating Committee.
- Dr. Karl Kranz is monitoring data around local Covid infection rates to advise best worship practices.

## LITTLE FREE PANTRY UPDATE



Our Little Free Pantry has been discovered and is serving its intended purpose—giving our neighbors or others a place to find food if they need it—and giving us all a chance to share with hungry neighbors. During the cold snap, all of the canned or glass jar food items were removed to prevent spoilage.

While the weather is cold we can provide dry food items or things like peanut butter. If you have a few items, feel free to restock the pantry yourself. If you have a larger donation, there is a shelf to the right of the door in the entry to the Fellowship Hall. Suggested winter food items: cooking oil, dry soup mixes, mac and cheese, meats in foil pouches, shelf stable sausages, crackers, tortillas, cereal, rice, dry beans, pasta, dry fruit, nuts, nut butters. Also: dish soap, laundry soap, shampoo, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, baby diapers. Items like diapers we will repackage into smaller batches. Buy small sizes. Please don't bring sugary snacks because neighborhood parents may not appreciate us feeding their kiddos sugar! Avoid foods that need additional ingredients, such as Hamburger Helper.



### GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSIONS BEGIN JANUARY 30



The first session of the nine-part Great Decisions foreign policy discussion series will take place by Zoom on Sunday, January 30 at 6:00. The topic is *Changing Demographics*, facilitated by Ed Martinez. I will lead the discussion on *Outer Space* on February 6. Faith Lutheran traditionally has hosted in-person discussions on Sunday evenings January through March. Perhaps we can resume in-person discussions at a later date this year -- who knows?

The Foreign Policy Association in New York City has been sponsoring Great Decisions for so long that I remember my parents participating in the discussions when I was a kid in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, sparking my interest in international affairs. When John and I moved to Leavenworth 17 years ago, I missed being on the board of Portland's World Affairs Council

(now WorldOregon) and learning about world affairs. I approached then-FLC pastor Alex Schmidt about starting a Great Decisions program at FLC and it has thrived ever since.

The Foreign Policy Association (FPA) was founded in 1918 as the League of Free Nations Association to support President Woodrow Wilson's efforts to achieve a just peace at the end of World War I. FPA founding members, dedicated to studying all sides of issues, included John Foster Dulles and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Those interested in joining can contact Susan Butruille at 509 630 6488 or [susanbutruille@gmail.com](mailto:susanbutruille@gmail.com)



## HOLY LAND TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY

### *The Land of the Bible: Ancient Sites and Current Struggles*

This tour opportunity will be hosted by Lutheran School of Theology Chicago (LSTC) Professor and Faith Lutheran Church member Barbara Rossing. It is scheduled for **May 16-28, 2022** and is open to a mix of students, alumni, friends and family. Price: \$2300 plus airfare. Email Barbara if you are interested: [brossing@lstc.edu](mailto:brossing@lstc.edu).

While many Christian tours of the Holy Land focus entirely on the sites associated with events and people of the Bible, this 13-day study tour does this and much more. There will be visits to key biblical sites in the Galilee (Nazareth, Capernaum, Magdala, Megiddo, Caesarea Philippi), Jerusalem (Temple Mount, Mount of Olives, Church of the Holy Sepulcher), Caesarea Maritima, and Bethlehem. There will also be opportunity to dialogue with key persons and groups struggling for peace and justice today as well as consider water resources from ecological and justice perspectives. In the best sense, this trip is a pilgrimage for participants because engaging “the world of the Bible” does indeed involve both ancient sites and current struggles and how they are intertwined. [EO JCBS / Tours · The Land of the Bible with Ancient Sites & Current Struggles 2022 with Lutheran School of Theology Professors Klaus-Peter Adam & Barbara Rossing.](#)



## FAITH ACTION NETWORK (FAN) Submitted by Susan Butruille

The 2022 Washington State legislative session began on January 10, continuing through March 10. And Faith Action Network (FAN) is on top of it! Founded in 2011, FAN is “an interfaith statewide partnership striving for a just, compassionate, and sustainable world through community building, education, and courageous public action.” More than 160 Washington faith organizations, including Faith Lutheran Church, participate in FAN to “advocate for a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world.”

If you are one of many these days in despair over the state of the world, I urge you to look into FAN. In my observation, FAN is the most effective entity influencing public policy in our state. We know that national issues are becoming more state- and locally-focused. The importance of working to influence the making of laws in our state cannot be overstated. FAN’s Web site, [fanwa.org](http://fanwa.org), contains an

amazing amount of information including things such as legislative agendas, advocacy toolkit, a bill tracker, how to testify remotely and much more.

FAN now has a new executive director, Elise De Gooyer, to follow the legendary Paul Benz, longtime activist and leader of FAN who retired at the end of 2021. The annual Interfaith Advocacy Day will take place online on **February 10, 9-noon**, with opportunities to learn about issues and meet with our 12th Legislative District legislators: Senator Brad Hawkins and Representatives Keith Goehner and Mike Steele. Register to participate by **February 4**.

To subscribe to FAN’s weekly newsletter, go to [fanwa.ourpowerbase.net](http://fanwa.ourpowerbase.net) for a weekly update on the legislative session and actions to advocate for a just, peaceful, and sustainable world.



## ENDOWMENT GRANT AWARDS

The Endowment Committee has determined the following grant awards for 2021. We granted ten grants totaling \$5,000. Thanks to all of you who submitted grant requests.

1. **Cascade High School Drama Program:** To assist purchasing a new body microphone. A production of Peter Pan is in the works.
2. **Cascade Parent Teacher Organization:** To help fund a community screening of “Screenagers”.
3. **Cascade School District Early Learning:** To purchase art materials for hands-on learning. Instructional supplies were cut from budgets due to Covid complications with budgeting.
4. **Dangerous Women:** To help fund the 2022 production which is collaborating with women of the Wenatchi tribe. Actresses from our very own congregation include Susan Butruille, Karen Francis-McWhite, and Mandy Wickline.
5. **Men in the Mirror:** To support this ministry which equips men to prevent violence against women in Central America, co-led by our friend Brian Thompson-Royer. This ministry went virtual in 2021 which enabled them to expand to multiple countries.
6. **NWIM Global Mission:** Support for Tumaini Seminary, a secondary school in Tanzania, which has been struggling financially due to Covid complications.
7. **Immigration/Race Justice Group:** To support a local immigrant family that lost their home in a fire and has been rebuilding as funds become available.
8. **Luceritos/CEIPA:** To provide assistance with food and school supplies for poor families in Guatemala.
9. **Lutherans Restoring Creation:** To help fund the 2022 program of work, including an Earth Day worship service to be shared nationally across the ELCA.
10. **Ingalls Creek Enrichment Center:** To help fund an intern that volunteers in local adult family homes.



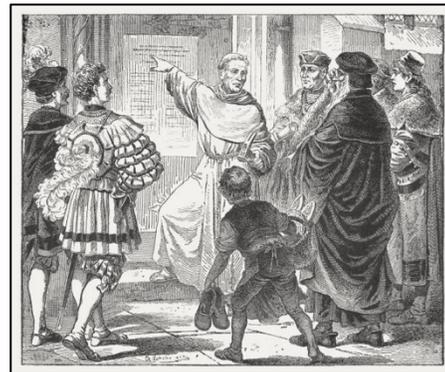
## **HISTORY CORNER:** Part 2 of 3 submitted by Danny Thomassen

When Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses in 1517, about 7% of the population of

Germany were literate. The rural agricultural populations lacked basic religious knowledge, people had not heard of the Ten Commandments, pastors had difficulty distinguishing the three-persons of the Trinity and could remember almost nothing about the Old Testament. People in German society would typically develop personal relationships with various religious saints, the seven sacraments central to church life and the Doctrine of Purgatory where dead relatives were spending long periods of time in purification. This all created an emotional bond between the living and the dead. The perceived torments were used to blackmail monetary payments for church issued indulgences to shorten time in purgatory. These beliefs were a “way of life”. They were a deep-seated form of religion from the past that guided the faithful towards a Godly life. During the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, the anxieties of daily life caused consequences. People were constantly in search for a means of reconciliation; a form of order to help them understand human existence similar to the cyclical rhythms of the seasons (Nature). Medieval European religion was “soteriological”; a religious doctrine of salvation that searched for key *“means on earth to achieve the ends of human salvation in heaven”*. Ordinary people of Luther’s time had little potential for casting off superstitions; beliefs and behaviors of uneducated civilians were not curtailed. Civil and church authorities did not challenge or discourage these childish beliefs, superstitious practices and primitive behaviors. The majority peasant classes remained in perpetuatul ignorance which helped the authorities maintain public order in civilized fashion.

The Roman Catholic Church’s credibility was at stake during the end of the Middle Ages (1500-1650 A.D.) Extreme wealth of the church resulted in spiritual shallowness. High clerics delegated pastoral duties to uneducated vicars allowing them to live more luxurious lifestyles. Instruments of salvation were converted into torments of hell, severe penitence and the selling of indulgences. Worship services for the laity became sterile repetition.

Late medieval Europe was being transformed by the Reformation and the authority of the Roman Catholic Church was being undermined. Luther began to see the world in the context of reality; without the veils casted over by magic, miracles, and religious relics. As it is today, religious superstitions were not going to vanish entirely; religion was not only a belief system but perhaps more importantly a matter of practice in the context of a larger cultural religious community that had history with the greater world. These values were ingrained into medieval human imaginations that went far beyond any individual’s personal needs or satisfactions. New religious concepts were becoming increasing defined; the collective hysteria in the supernatural did not completely vanish. Luther was bringing modernity to the church; the supernatural was beginning to move to the margins and the phenomena of earthly mythical powers began to slowly dwindle in the late-medieval world of Europe. *(To be continued)*



## IMMIGRATION/RACE JUSTICE GROUP (I/RJG) January meeting

- Our finances were discussed. The current account balance is as low as it's ever been. Anyone desiring to help with financial resources should view <https://irjgroup.wixsite.com/irjg> for tax credit or send donation directly to Faith Lutheran.
- We are gathering information for our future Community Benefit evening at the München Haus.
- Our next scheduled book study will be Thurs., Feb. 3, 6:30 p.m. Book: *The 1619 Project*.
- Covid concerns forced the Building Bridges workshop in Wenatchee to be postponed to March.
- Migrant Graduation Specialist reports great improvements in grades, no student is failing in any class. Our member teacher has 40 EL students and 25 students in the Migrant Program, with some overlap. Math is the most troublesome and she is looking for tutors. Library gatherings to prepare scholarship applications is still on hold. Future long-term mentorships were also discussed.
- The AVID director at Cascade High School has been contacted regarding student needs and tutor opportunities. No response as of yet.
- Immigrant Families. One single mom will have another medical procedure soon. We will try to contact some of the previous families we have assisted. The group also discussed the resettling of Afghan refugees by private groups and organizations and decided not to undertake such a project.
- One of our members will work with a NWIRP lawyer to learn how to do client intakes. She is also currently taking a conversational Spanish class through WVC.
- One of our members checked with MEND about some of our migrant students' families to see if any qualify for state/federal assistance programs. She, MEND and the CSD Social worker will network to look further into these possibilities. She continues mentoring nursing students and soon will help facilitate a 2-day workshop intended to support WVC faculty of color.
- Next meeting is February 17

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



1 Lisa Therrell  
3 Beth Pratt  
6 Marycarol Nelson  
13 Leesa Broker  
14 Geoff Richardson  
18 Sean Keenan  
20 Joshua Brulotte  
23 Nancy Bywater  
24 Dottie Smallbeck  
25 Danny Thomassen  
26 Carson Rieke  
27 Doris Nierman

Thanks to all who contributed articles and general interest information for this newsletter! Please forward contributions to Mary Steeber at [mary.steeber@gmail.com](mailto:mary.steeber@gmail.com) by February 21 for the March issue.

