



## Life of Faith

DECEMBER 2023

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Pastor Eva Jensen



Dear People of Faith,

We were grateful in our home over the Thanksgiving weekend for so many things - a roof and shelter, family, the chance to pause and reflect, a warm fire and our church community. I am also warmed by the energy I feel at Faith these days. It is very quiet, very deep, subtly strong and growing. I feel it in the music, I see it in the faces of the new members, I hear it in the conversations at coffee hour.


We are a small congregation that has been rock solid, innovative, and sometimes bold. We are undertaking another bold leap - a bid to house our Pastor. We want to show our community that we are here for the foreseeable future. We want to continue to be a church that leads the way by example in a town which has let workforce housing drift out of reach of many families. I find it personally fulfilling to be part of this remarkable group pulling for a common goal. I see new depths in people that I thought I knew in our church. I know it is a stretch and I know that it is possible right now.

We are a unique blend of interesting talented individuals, sometimes cats in a wheelbarrow but when we pull together we are mighty! I wish each of you Peace, and Joy, and a wonderful Advent season.

Karl Kranz  
Council President







Holden  
Evening  
Prayer

MARTY HAUGEN

**ADVENT**  
**Wednesdays**

Soup Supper 6:00 pm

Holden Evening Prayer  
7:00 pm

December 6th  
December 13th  
December 20th





**Christmas Services**

Christmas Eve  
5:00 pm

Christmas Day  
10:00 am

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First Sunday of Christmas  
December 31st at 9:30 am

ELCA Pastor Chelsea Globe  
of Lutheran Campus Ministry of Seattle

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on the same day as Christmas Eve this year. Our regular service will be at 9:30 a.m. with Christmas Eve worship at 5:00 p.m.**

- **BOOK GROUP:** Each Tuesday from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Margaret Neighbors, [mneighb67@gmail.com](mailto:mneighb67@gmail.com) if you have questions. All are welcome.
- **SAIL** (Staying Active and Independent for Life) Tuesday and Thursdays, from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall. All seniors 65 and older are welcome to join this free program. Contact Connie Thomassen (509) 470-8212 for more information.
- **KNITTING AND CRAFTS:** December 13 and 27, 1:30 – 3:00, Fellowship Hall
- **QUILT TYING:** Each Tuesday from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- **CHURCH COUNCIL:** December 12, 6:30 p.m.
- **IMMIGRATION / RACE, JUSTICE GROUP:** December 11, 6:30 p.m.
- **INTRODUCTION TO THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:** December 10, after worship. See pg. 5 for details.



## Special Congregational Meeting November 19, 2023

Pastor Eva opened with prayer before President, Karl Kranz, presented the two items that require a congregational vote so the council can take steps in acquiring a parsonage. The first was procedural and the second to approve a fundraising campaign to support any decision made about acquiring a parsonage. The meeting was hybrid with 8 members attending via zoom.

Amy Carlson requested that our Vision Statement be read. Karl Kranz read the Vision Statement.

Greg Steeber gave an introduction. With the expensive housing costs in Leavenworth, a parsonage has been under consideration a long time. The parsonage committee includes: Greg Steeber, Greg Harris, Karl Kranz and Eva Jensen. They had been working with Lexar Homes in Wenatchee about a new house on our 2 lots on Benton St. Two months ago, Margaret Neighbors, a member of the congregation, advised the committee that she was going to be selling her home, hopefully by the Spring of 2024 and asked if Faith would be interested. Do we purchase Margaret's home on Tumwater Drive or build a new parsonage next to the church?

Greg Harris went through some pros and cons of each home. Tumwater Drive home: Approximately 1250 sq. ft., 21 years old, established neighborhood, \$575,000 asking price, 3 bedrooms, 2 bath with attached 1 ½ car garage. Benton St. home: Approximately 1900 sq. ft., new construction, landscaping would need to be done, \$550,000 to build, 3 bedrooms, 2 ½ bath, detached older 2 car garage.

Greg Steeber then went through the financial impacts. Faith has \$100k in savings to use towards the purchase but a mortgage and capital campaign will be required to meet the purchase price in each case. The mortgage amount will be determined by how much is raised in the capital campaign.

There was discussion about giving units in the congregation. In 2022, we had 52 units and due to deaths and people moving out of the area we now have 40. Approximately 80% of our community has increased their giving this year. We are behind on our budget but hope to catch up in November and December.

After a quorum was confirmed, Karl Kranz reiterated that this is NOT a vote to BUY the home but to allow the Council to do due diligence and spend approximately \$1,600 on inspections and appraisals of the Tumwater Drive home that will inform future decisions.

**First ballot item:** "Shall the Congregation authorize Faith Council to proceed with negotiations and purchase of necessary services such as home inspection and home appraisal in pursuit of the purchase of Margaret Neighbor's home at 324 Tumwater Drive in Leavenworth?" 33 yes votes; 2 no votes. Motion carried.

Capital Fund Campaign Discussion was led by Greg Steeber. A Capital Campaign will offset the size of mortgage needed for the parsonage and usually costs less than 10% of the campaign amount. After the Mission Statement was read again, the second vote took place.

**Second ballot item:** "Shall the Congregation authorize Faith Council to set up a Capital Fund Campaign for a new parsonage?" 33 yes, 1 no, 1 abstention. Motion carried.

The Council will move forward with hiring campaign consultants and keep the congregation informed.

***O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

**The Faith Lutheran Church Council has already hired consultants for a capital fund campaign which was authorized at the special congregational meeting. The *Abundant Congregations* consulting team will lead us in raising funds to secure affordable housing for our pastoral leadership. Thank you, *Abundant Congregations*!**

## **Meet Abundant Congregations Consulting Team**

Greetings from Abundant Congregations, a resource development ministry working with Christian congregations throughout the country. We are excited about working with you at Faith during an incredibly important chapter of your congregation's life and growth. We are confident that you will experience joy and delight as you rediscover the abundance of your congregation's vision, mission, and ministry in today's changing world.

We look forward to serving as your capital campaign consulting team and forming a partnership which will offer you the guidance you need to fully develop abundant financial and ministry resources for your congregation to experience continued growth and vitality.

In Christ's Abundant Grace and Peace

*Pastor Don Haven and Pastor Cindy Carroll*



**Pr. Don Haven, President and Lead Consultant**, has served as a congregational pastor and as a capital giving campaign consultant -- leading congregations and agencies through journeys of spiritual growth, financial health, and mission expansion. He has helped raise over \$70 million over the years by inspiring generosity, leading and training leadership teams and building ownership and support in the community for their vision, mission, and ministry goals.

Don has a Certificate of Fund-Raising Management (C.F.R.M.) through the Indiana University School of Philanthropy and completed the training for the Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising. He has served as the Lead Pastor of congregations in California, Oregon, and Texas; as the Major Gift Director for Lutheran World Relief; and as a member of the Steering Committee for the ELCA *Always Being Made New Campaign*.



**Pr. Cindy Carroll, Vice President and Consultant**, has served as a parish pastor and worked in fundraising, marketing, and public relations. Her experience includes: Vice President of Development, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and Development Director, Skagit Valley College. She served as Director for Communication in Northwest Region of the ELCA and in public relations for a national non-profit insurance organization. She has served as a Pastor of congregations in California and Texas.

Cindy completed the training for the Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising and served on the Steering Committee for the ELCA *Always Being Made New Campaign*. She has experience in assisting congregations and non-profits to communicate their vision for mission as well as to make it become real and tangible by helping generate the generosity needed to move forward with their dreams.



## Learn more about the Capital Campaign...

You are invited to share coffee and goodies following worship on December 10 as you hear from our Capital Campaign coaches, Pr. Don Haven and Pr. Cindy Carroll. You'll hear more about Faith's campaign vision, theme and goal as well as find out more about how you might consider being a part of one of the teams in this exciting process happening over the next 3 months! This is an opportunity to be a part of an energetic and spiritually inspiring faith journey along with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Advent is a time of waiting, anticipation and preparation for the birth of Jesus to break into our hearts in new ways. It is also a time of expectant hope. There couldn't be a better time for Faith Lutheran to launch the Capital Campaign so that you can live out your vision of God's amazing grace for this community.

## Church Council November 2023

### Pastors Report

- *Pastoral Care:* Eva is continuing to meet with Faith Lutheran members and friends to renew and deepen relationships. She is continuing to get to know Leavenworth as our Pastor by participating in community events where Faith has historical and on-going commitments and involvement. Several friends and members have experienced health care challenges and received care and support from members, friends and Pastor Eva herself.
- *New member/friend group:* This group is going very well. There were 9 people attending. Two and maybe three of the of the nine people attending will become new members. The remaining 6 are likely to affirm their friendship commitment. Most are interested in participating in continuing faith and theology group offerings with invitations open to the whole congregation.
- *Tuesday Book Group:* Pastor Eva is now meeting weekly with this group. John Schramm and Margaret Neighbors have been leading this group for many years. The Central Valley clergy text study changed their meeting time on Tuesdays to 11:30 a.m. so she can participate in both gatherings.
- *Communications Planning:* Deanne Erickson is providing very helpful coordination and support to communications, weekly announcements of *Life at Faith* and bulletin preparation for worship. Her work is essential to worship and the communications of the congregation.
- *2024 Objective:* Create Small Groups and Committees brochure that describes the work and life of the congregation and opportunities for member involvement and engagement.
- *Looking ahead.* Pastor Eva's time off and vacation dates include:
  - November 20-28: Barbara Rossing will preach and preside November 26.
  - December 26-January 5: Rev. Chelsea Globe, Pastor, UW Lutheran Campus Ministry, will preside and preach on December 31. Barbara Rossing will host her.
  - 2024 - Pastor Eva would like to change her day off from Monday to Friday.



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### **Treasurer's Report**

- A couple of our CD's will come due at the end of December and January. Greg S. will look into whether they should be renewed considering the possible need for cash for a parsonage early next year.
- Contributions for October were \$12,098.66. Total contributions from January-October 2023 are \$101,496.56. Our year-to-date budget is \$130,000.00 and the annual budget is \$156,000.00. Last year we had 52 giving units. This year we have 40 giving units. However, 80% are giving more than last year.
- Benevolences are up to date. There is a \$1,000 Council designated distribution yet to make. Some options include: MEND, the backpack program through the school district, toy drive, or the Methodist Church. Hope to do this by December 1.
- Expenses are down \$13,000. Administration costs have increased because we hired Deanne Erickson to help with the communications and we still have Kelly as our bookkeeper.

### **Property Committee**

- The parsonage cricket repair and the irrigation winterization are complete.
- The parsonage roof has been inspected. It is aluminum with a very nice shake roof underneath and seems to be very solid.
- There was a plumbing failure in the Fellowship Hall so a plumber has been called and hopefully repairs will be made next week. There was a water overflow involving carpets and subfloor but Karl K. was able to get some fans to dry everything out so at this point, the floors should be ok.
- \$45 extra will be paid the Landscaper for raking the leaves and cleaning up the yard for winter.
- A fire inspection has been completed. We are in full compliance for another year.

### **Worship Committee**

- Pastor Eva brought a new Advent liturgy to the worship team for the 4 Sundays of Advent and the hymns have been selected. During Advent, there will be 3 Wednesday evening soup suppers followed by worship using Holden Evening Prayer. There will be one Christmas Eve candlelight service and one Christmas Day service.
- Pastor Eva has recognized and heard from a few people that our worship bulletins and services are sometimes confusing and hard for visitors and friends/members to follow. She has encouraged some changes to support a posture of welcome, invitation and participation for all and is working with the committee to make adjustments.

### **Parsonage Project Committee**

- There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, November 19, 2023 to vote on (1) whether to continue due diligence in the purchase of Margaret Neighbors home on Tumwater Drive in Leavenworth. That would mean we could get an inspection and appraisal of the home but does not mean we would necessarily purchase the home, and (2) whether we should do a Capital Campaign for either the purchasing of Margaret's home or if we decide to build a home on the lot on Benton Street. Another meeting and vote would be needed to finalize either option.
- Greg Steeber went over the financial analysis and it looks ready to present to the congregation.

### **Old Business**

- Mail to nwi.net seems functional. Deanne is in the process of changing all email addresses for the council now.
- New members/friends introduction will be made on Sunday, November 19.
- The outdoor Adirondack chairs will stay in their location and be covered for winter.
- Kelly is forwarding the electric bills to our tenant, Kirk, on Benton Street.

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### New Business

- Pete S. wanted to confirm that Pastor Eva gets more than one day off each week. Pastor Eva would like to change her weekday day off from Monday to Friday.
- Eric brought up the idea that we do more dinners and gatherings outside of church.
- We need to start working on the budget for next year. Hopefully, we can have this ready in December for review and finalize review in January for the annual meeting.
- The Annual Meeting will be January 28, 2024 after church with a potluck lunch.

**Next Council Meeting:** December 12 @6:30 p.m.



### Welcome new members...

Kate Farrar, Beth Pratt and Brisa Peacock were received into membership at Faith during worship on December 19! Welcome and thanks be to God for your presence and participation in our community.

### An Invitation...

Might you be considering a way to wrap yourself more cozily into the life of your congregation? Are you looking for a way to help out without weekly commitment or long hours?

If so, then Faith Lutheran Altar Guild could be a good fit for you. Sometimes we guilders ask ourselves, "Am I qualified? Reverent enough?" But then as we come into our workspace, wash our hands and take a deep breath, unneeded thoughts fade away as the holiness of the task comes to us and time stands still.

Any Faith Lutheran Member or Friend who would like to join the Altar Guild is most welcome. Just let one of us know and we will get you signed up and trained in.

Guild Director  
Dawn Kranz



## Little Free Pantry Food Drive for Holidays

Our Little Free Pantry has now been in service for two years! And we have definitely been discovered by those who need food. When we started, we were restocking the pantry fully about twice a week. Starting last winter, food has been cleaned out on a near daily basis. We are now stocking the pantry daily, but with less food each day in order to make it last.



For the most part, we don't know exactly who we serve. Last Saturday night, a car pulled up and took all the food offerings from the pantry. Thirty minutes later, that same car was sitting in the parking lot of the church next door. Perhaps that batch of food went to a person that is living in their car.

We successfully applied for a number of small grants, some of which were generously matched by this congregation. Our funds are now starting to run low. We are also about to enter the coldest days of the year where we switch to using dry foods instead of canned. So how about a food drive? From Thanksgiving through Advent, please help restock dry foods for the pantry. There will be a box inside the narthex or put the food on the shelf in the Fellowship Hall.

Suggestions include: peanut butter, cold cereal, dry cooked cereals, pancake mix, cornbread or muffin mix, pasta, rice, beans, dry soup, foods in aseptic packets like tuna and milk, tortillas, crackers, rice cakes, instant mashed potato packets, dried hash browns, shelf stable sausages, ramen noodles, noodle bowls, mac & cheese, quinoa, granola bars, packages of nuts or healthy snacks. Please avoid foods that need a lot of added ingredients. Also consider such essentials as bars of soap, shampoo, toothpaste, dish soap, laundry soap, toilet paper, baby diapers, tampons.

## Visit Greece and Turkey

Barbara Rossing invites Faith Lutheran folks and friends to join the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago *World of the Bible* travel seminar/pilgrimage she will lead to Greece and Turkey May 21 to June 8, 2024.

The itinerary includes churches of Revelation and Letters of Paul, interfaith sites and the archeology of early Christianity including Cappadocia's cave churches and more. Six nights in Greece, including overnight ferry to the island of Patmos from Athens; nine nights in Turkey.



Here is the brochure with detailed information.

<https://tutku.travel/tour/greece-and-turkey-barbara-rossing-and-esther-menn-lutheran-school-of-theology>







## Immigration/Race Justice Group (I/RJG) November, 2023

**Finances:** Our Current CVB account will be near zero after our next disbursements. The Director of Evangelical Mission of our regional denomination will be contacted to see if new grant funding is available. München Haus is not able to grant us a fundraiser evening but will donate \$500 to I/RJG.

**Citizenship/Literacy Classes:** Three of this past year's students have taken their exam, passed and have been Naturalized at ceremonies in Yakima this past month. Congratulations! New student's inquiries may attend in the coming weeks. The weekly 2 hour literacy classes on Tuesday evenings at the Peshastin Library are well attended.

### Member updates:

- Two members of a single parent family that we have been assisting for a decade will again need to appear at the Federal Immigration Court in Seattle for an 8 a.m. morning after Thanksgiving appointment. The mother and son(s) are seeking asylum. It is yet another important appointment and it is again of great concern as to what will happen to their many years long process. *(court appearance was held and a decision was delayed AGAIN until July, '24! One of our members accompanied them)*
- A nursing student that one of our members has been mentoring is in need of financial assistance to be able to finish her coursework. Additional resources would help her not have to work her two jobs as much during her final weeks of class. Two I/RJG supporting families will give \$600 and we will donate an additional \$300.
- The Cascade School District Special Immigrant Graduation Program has 5 students needing to take Driver's Education in February. We are hoping to contribute \$325 of the \$525 cost for each, for a total of \$1,625. Given our limited resources of late, much discussion was undertaken regarding this important need for families needing help in getting to work, medical appointments and school. **Financial donations from supporters would be lovely!!** *(Thanks to a Faith Lutheran Church couple who donated \$400!)* For a tax deduction, send to Faith Lutheran POB 418 (designate I/RJG) or directly on our website (PayPal): <https://irjgroup.wixsite.com/irjg> Good questions were raised and we will wait for additional information:
  - Do all families need the same amount? Might some be able to contribute more?
  - Might there be other ways of teaching how to drive, i.e. a family member?
  - Could we have more information, perhaps a written request by each student?
  - Should there be an annual "cap" on the number of Driver's Ed. student funded?.
- Another friend of our group will present a financial need from a visually impaired student in December before our next meeting, after she gathers more information.

**Next meeting:** December 11

## Making a Difference with Thrivent Community Impact Funds

Thrivent  
supports our  
Little Free Pantry  
and Quilter's  
Group!

Do you have investments with Thrivent? You may qualify for Community Impact funding annually. These funds can help support a ministry project of your choosing. Recently Leese Broker received funds to help restock food supplies for the Little Free Pantry. Likewise, Karen Strom has helped the Faith Lutheran Quilters purchase batting with Community Impact funds. Here is how it works. Thrivent is a fraternal organization, which means Thrivent is required to have social gatherings. As an investor, you fill out a form requesting a Community Impact Card. You would plan and host an event, which could simply be providing for the coffee hour at church. You receive a card with \$250, which can help fund your event plus the remaining funds can be used to support a ministry. Leesa hosted the coffee hour at church, using the funds to purchase treats, with the remainder supporting the Little Free Pantry. For additional examples at Faith Lutheran, you could also help support the Immigration/Race Justice Group which is currently seeking funds to help pay for driver's education or you could add funds to the endowment fund. Please consider this annual opportunity if you have Thrivent investments.

If you have Thrivent investments, please consider an annual opportunity to fund ministries at FLC. Visit [Thrivent Action Teams | Thrivent](#) for details.



## What to do when relatives visit?

Lori Reister and her sister Collenn visiting from Maine made newborn hats for Wenatchee Hospital. Great job!



## The History Corner: by Danny Thomassen



A few of you may recall during 2021-22 that I presented 12 articles over a 12-month period in our FLC newsletter: The History Corner regarding our Lutheran Heritage. During recent conversations with Mary Steeber I was invited to possibly provide additional articles concerning the legacy of Martin Luther. The History Corner is back and I hope to share with you a few insights during the coming new year 2024.

Many of us are aware of today's significant social unrest, political division, infringements on civil rights, compromises with individual liberties, national degradation, and the humiliation of international conflicts that ignore the sanctity of life for innocent citizens of the world. Over this past year I have studied over 200 letters written by Dr. Martin Luther (1483-1546 A.D.). These readings offer real insights into Martin's spiritual counseling during the late Middle Ages. The letters have provided me with a "bird's eye" view of Martin the man through his own writings during his own times. As a community leader and religious scholar living in Wittenberg, Germany Luther was constantly struggling with social disobedience, epidemic diseases, widespread famines, conflicts between church and rulers of state (i.e. government), human emotional depression, encouragement for the persecuted, and intercessions for the sick and dying..

I would like to take you back 500 years to the 16th Century and explore how Martin actively engaged in his own society's problems straight-out with steadfast faith, single-minded dedication to the Scriptures, and his true love and trust in God. Moving forward to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century possibly we can ponder lessons from Martin as individuals considering the social maladies of our times..

Martin was ordained a Catholic priest in 1507. By 1517 he challenged the papacy in Rome regarding the sale of indulgences in exchange for eternal salvation among other issues. He was excommunicated from his church; eventually labeled a "heretic" throughout Germany. Standing before the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire and his cabinet he refused to recant and stood alone resolved to his own conscience. Today how can we impact our world, influence our natural environment, improve interpersonal relationships? One person at a time.



This is the bust of Martin Luther in front of Eastvold Auditorium on the campus of Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA.

Thank you.....

To our faithful and faith  
filled musicians who  
generously share their gifts in  
worship. You are appreciated!







Thank you, Lauren Johnson, for joining others in “tending the camera” which allows worship at Faith Lutheran to reach folks well beyond the walls of our sanctuary.

Thank you, Property Committee! Over the past month, you have:

Completed major repair on the ceiling light in office

Replaced door handle in Fellowship Hall

Installed a cricket on roof of the parsonage

Managed a major blockage in plumbing pipes which created multiple overflow events in Fellowship Hall. Clean up and repairs have been made and the two toilets replaced. The next step is to dig out a new clean out pipe.

Irrigation pipes were drained for winter

**Please note deadline for the next newsletter  
is early, December 18 to allow the January  
issue to go out before the holidays.**

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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 December 18 for the January issue.











