



## Life of Faith

July 2023

224 Benton St. (P.O. Box 418) Leavenworth WA 98826

Phone: 509 548 7010

Email: [flcleavenworth@gmail.com](mailto:flcleavenworth@gmail.com) [www.flcleavenworth.com](http://www.flcleavenworth.com)

Pastor Eva Jensen

### ***From our president....***

Ha, Summer at last. We shovel, plow, shiver and wait for shorts, gardens and the glory of the warm sun for months, and it is finally here. I am ready for long hot weeks of blue skies!

It's all in how you see it, right? That is my theme this month, friends. If you are an organic farmer counting on the cash crop this summer and the well is failing and the crops are looking dry, you are sweating the weather that I crave. A farmer, hoping and praying for rain, scanning the sky for a hopeful cloud and to them the summer world looks a whole lot different. As a matter of fact, perception seems to be a description of how our minds process the world and it is variable from human to human. What one person sees, tastes, feels, and knows to be factual may be completely different for the next person, yet we have learned to believe in what our mind perceives. "Seeing is Believing", it is said. In 2015 a poorly exposed photo of a dress was shown on the internet and went viral. The striped dress is clearly white with gold stripes to me, yet a nearly equal number of people polled about the same photo clearly saw a dress composed of blue and gold. (Scientific American Spring 2023 pg.14). Colors appear to be a trick of evolution created by our mind to interpret the world. If I lose my sense of taste and smell from Covid, is the food tasteless to every one? How do I know, unless I talk about it with another human.

Pastor Paul Palumbo had a fine opinion piece in the Wenatchee World about how he looks at 'Woke'. It is worth reading. We all need to communicate more clearly and more often, a dusty almost lost art as we emerge blinking into the light from the isolation of the pandemic.

Pastor Eva's sermon launched me into a reflection on this flight of fancy. Tuesday is hiking day at our house. We walk somewhere on Tuesdays and a couple of weeks ago we walked up to the high edge of Wedge Mountain. It is plenty steep on the side we traveled up and remarkably vertical on the other side as it drops away into the Snow Creek drainage. There was fierce bushwhacking, a bit of blood and some bruises before we found a lunch spot with an amazing view. We were above it all, looking down on Snow Creek Wall far below. Climbing higher we could see the Icicle Valley below and saw a flight of paragliders riding the wind. We walked on, higher up the ridge and the wind came. Suddenly there were 3 flyers riding the ridge lift just below us. Who's high now, what do you think? They ascended, spiraling into the lift, pulled upward by their powerful chutes and were above us in a moment. Aha, they are now supreme, eh?

What they did not see, and may never know, was that at that same time, which in that moment delighted us in a vision that will last for me forever, was a single magnificent bald eagle, master of the sky, riding the thermal in formation with them but 100 feet further above, shielded from their view by their nylon kites!

If I knew those flyers, if I could meet them and talk to them about what I saw, they would share my joy. Though they didn't 'see' it, they were part of it, and without them there would have been nothing miraculously extraordinary in my world that day.

We live in a world of pain and difficulty which also abounds with miracles. Find the miracles, people of Faith, see them, note them, share the good news! Blessings abound.

God's Peace,  
Karl Kranz



### **Faith Lutheran Church – Vision Statement:**

Living in God's amazing grace, we envision Faith Lutheran Church as a diverse beacon of hope, healing, and reconciliation in a broken world.

### **Faith Lutheran Church – Mission Statement:**

As disciples in Christ, we are called to incarnate the gracious, healing and reconciling presence of God through sacramental worship, congregational nurture and ministries of peace, mercy and justice for all Creation.

### ***From Pastor Eva ...***

In these first Sundays after Pentecost, during the month of June, we celebrated God's sending of the Spirit into the lives of all people – people of many cultures, identities, ethnicities, and language – we read about Jesus creating a community of faith among the people who followed him.

Jesus, shifted the role of disciples from being followers to being actors – agents of healing and transformation: people who work collaboratively as teachers and healers and people of compassion acting in a variety of roles.

### ***Faith Lutheran Church claims that discipleship role and identity boldly in our Mission Statement!***

As your new pastor, I am working with your elected leaders and people who lead some of your key ministries to set priorities and first steps of action to strengthen your life as a congregation, individual members, and related friends. Our calling/purpose is to share Christ's compassion with others and all of creation.

I wonder, as I am getting to know each of you as members and friends of FLC

- ◆ What are your gifts and passions?
- ◆ What brings you joy?
- ◆ What are your questions about faith, life, and the roles of the church?
- ◆ What do you treasure about FLC and God's love for you, for the whole of creation?
- ◆ What gifts and passions would you like to share or further develop?

### ***As a Council, we have set the following priorities:***

1. Convene a group of people who are interested in exploring membership or a friendship relationship with Faith Lutheran Church. Schedule a 5 or 6 week series of sessions to form relationships, explore questions and thoughts about church and faith, study a Lutheran understanding of faith and discipleship, and learn more about the identity of FLC and each other. As a group we will set a date to welcome those who choose to become new members or friends of Faith.
2. Renew relationships with current members and friends, re-connect with one another, and strengthen our relationships. As your pastor, I will create time to meet with you one-on-one and get to know you.
3. Get to know children, youth & families. How do you want to be involved with each other and FLC? I will plan a couple gatherings for us to get to know each other, share ideas, and imagine life together.
4. On-going care for one another in daily life, faith and sacramental worship.

I have experienced generous welcome, joy, and compassion from you and among you as a community of faith. I look forward to individually getting to know more of you. Please reach out and know that I will be inviting you to meet with me. Pastor Eva Jensen

**Caring God, you enter our world with loving compassion. Teach us to do likewise. In Christ we pray.  
Amen**

### Interested in becoming a member or friend of FLC?

In July a group of people interested in membership or a friendship relationship with Faith Lutheran Church will begin gathering for a 5 or 6 week series of sessions to form relationships, explore questions and thoughts about church and faith, study a Lutheran understanding of faith and discipleship and learn more about the identity of FLC and each other. The sessions will be facilitated by Pastor Eva Jensen. As a group we will set a Fall date to welcome those who choose to become new members or Friends of Faith.

Contact the church office 509 548 7010 or Pastor Eva at [evajensen101@gmail.com](mailto:evajensen101@gmail.com) if you want to be part of this group. A gathering time will be set when we learn who will be involved and what schedule may work best. You do not have to commit to joining or affiliating in order to participate in these sessions.

Did you see the book group changed their meeting day? AND is taking a summer break?



### What's Happening

Oh, and did you see the knitting and quilt tying group are also on summer break in July?

**BOOK GROUP:** The book group will take a 3 week break and then meet each Tuesday beginning July 25. The current book is, "Accidental Saints" by Nadia Bolz-Weber and the next one will be *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor, which asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties and to explore all that God has to teach us "in the dark." If this sounds intriguing to you please contact Margaret Neighbors, [mneighb67@gmail.com](mailto:mneighb67@gmail.com). We'd love to have you join us!

**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:** Summer break! Will not meet in July.

**QUILT TYING:** On break during July

**CHURCH COUNCIL:** July 13, 6:30 p.m.

**IMMIGRATION/RACE/JUSTICE GROUP BOOK STUDY:** July 19, 6:30 p.m. at LOGE

**LUNCH WITH BISHOP MEGGAN MANLOVE :** July 2 at Celebration Lutheran Church in Wenatchee. Contact Pr. Eva if interested.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR LORNA ULLSTROM:** July 8, 2:00 pm at Mountain Meadows

## CHURCH COUNCIL June 2023

### Pastors Report

Pastor Eva continues to get to know the Faith Lutheran Church community through intentional visits, community events and gathering with members in a variety of ways. She attends Book Study and has begun plans for new member gatherings and also possible faith formation and confirmation classes. She has engaged in conversations about more intentional coordination between the website, newsletter and emails from the church. Pr. Eva has reached out to the pastor of the United Methodist Church in town with the hope of developing a more intentional relationship with them as well as meet for weekly text study. Additionally, she plans to participate in a theological study group and book read with a group that Dane Breslin is hosting in Wenatchee. We have a very busy pastor!



### Treasurer's Report

- \$60,000 was moved from our savings account into a 7-month CD offering 4.2% interest. \$70,000 remains in the savings account. It was passed unanimously to take out up to \$60,000 more and put into a higher interest CD.
- Our contributions this month were \$7,050 plus an annual gift of \$8,000. Total January-May, 2023 contributions were \$51,514.95 with the budgeted amount for this time period of \$65,000.
- The congregation should be reminded of the promise of increased giving made at the annual meeting.

### Property Committee

- Roof on the Fellowship Hall is in the process of being replaced. Useable materials that have been removed are being saved for possible future use.
- Karl met with Mike Schramm, a retired building code professional, to revisit the status of the structural integrity of the parsonage. Investing in repairs, unless urgent, continues to be discouraged.

### Worship Committee

- Services are planned through July 9
- Bulletins will be changed every 6 to 8 weeks during the season of Pentecost
- New hymns will be used out of *All Creation Sings*

### Endowment Committee

- The committee met with a Thrivent representative and was reminded that all members have Choice Dollars to contribute to missions of the church as well as Action Team Dollars available up to \$250.
- We have two accounts with Thrivent. As of 6/2/2023 their values are \$46,010.40 and \$46,892.21 for a total value of \$92,902.61. This is up 5% since January, 2023. They also have money market accounts that pay between 4.3-4.5% interest.

### Call Committee

- The closing meeting for this committee is pending.  
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#### **Parsonage Project Committee**

- Current members are Karl Kranz, Greg Steeber and Greg Harris.
- Don Haven came back for further discussion with this committee. He listened well and really helped. Greg Harris developed a vision statement which will be adjusted as time goes on.

#### **Old Business**

- The weekly bulletin will continue with the addition of current contributions and budget listed.
- The playground/preschool equipment has been removed.
- Subscription to Sundays and Seasons will start in the Fall.
- Pastor Support Group will be referred to as the Mutual Ministry of Leadership and Pastor. Karl and Eva will work on getting three people in addition to the Pastor to be in this group.
- Karl is still working on the email situation with the nwi.net email addresses. There are a few solutions he has yet to try. He will also get together with Mike Camp to discuss.

#### **New Business**

- Communications
- Church Picnic

**Next Meeting:** 07/13/2023, 6:30 pm



As a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), Faith Lutheran advocates for full welcome, inclusion and equity of LGBTQIA+ persons in all aspects of life together. June was Pride Month and there were a variety of ways local communities marked it. Of particular note, Pastor Dane Breslin, an openly queer minister, ordained in the Lutheran Church and serving ecumenically, held a special "Pride Service" on June 4 with about 70 people in attendance. Read more about this event here: [https://www.wenatcheeworld.com/news/local/progressive-church-holds-pride-service-with-queer-minister/article\\_695dfa4-0588-11ee-9119-134777103274.html/?utm\\_medium=internal&utm\\_source=readerShare&utm\\_campaign=bButton](https://www.wenatcheeworld.com/news/local/progressive-church-holds-pride-service-with-queer-minister/article_695dfa4-0588-11ee-9119-134777103274.html/?utm_medium=internal&utm_source=readerShare&utm_campaign=bButton)

Additionally, our Northwest Intermountain Synod (NWIMS) unanimously approved a resolution to support the dignity, honor and rights of transgender humans at their synod assembly in April. The resolution came about largely in response to the legalized discrimination of trans folk in Idaho (part of our synod), and many other parts of our country. The resolution asks that we proclaim God's love for trans folk; declare our intention to love them unconditionally; encourage our congregations to welcome trans folk, affirm their humanity and dignity, and joyfully receive them into membership and into the mission we share; encourage congregations to pray publicly in Sunday worship for the well-being of trans folk; and encourage congregations to study and gain knowledge of challenges facing trans folk, enter into dialogue "with holy curiosity" regarding trans experience, and speak and act in ways that honor the lives of transgender people. Read full resolution here: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5af9bf757e3c3a51713bb137/t/644d42b20b85ac74dc04b41d/1682784947236/Resolution+4.pdf>



The Endowment Committee met in April to review grant applications and to determine grant awards. Funds were awarded to all eleven requests. Because there was only \$4,400 in available funds, all but two applicants received less than their requested amount. Grants are distributed across four categories of need in accordance with our endowment resolution: 1) local or synod outreach 2) churchwide ministries 3) Faith Lutheran capital improvements or ministries 4) other non-profits.

**Small grants were awarded to the following projects or organizations:**

- **Men in the Mirror:** A Presbyterian ministry designed to reduce domestic violence in Central America and elsewhere. Started by our friend Brian Thompson-Royer.
- **Dangerous Women:** A local theater production that brings the forgotten or suppressed histories of remarkable women and feminine archetypes to life. The grant provided financial support for travel expenses for the 2023 production. Faith Lutheran women started this production and remain involved.
- **Tumaini Boarding School (Tanzania):** This school is a ministry of our Companion Synod, the Ulanga Kilombero Diocese. The school has experienced crop failures two years in a row due to drought. Donations help with the purchase of food or other critical needs.
- **Lutherans Restoring Creation (LRC):** LRC promotes care for creation through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Faith Lutheran member Barbara Rossing serves on the advisory board of this organization.
- **Immigration/Race Justice Group:** This ministry of Faith Lutheran Church uses funds to help local immigrant families with financial challenges. For example, helping fund driver's education results in providing a family with transportation to work and school.
- **Luceritos Non-Profit Organization:** This organization was started by Faith Lutheran member Laurie Peek to support a nonprofit school in Guatemala that serves children from very poor families. Funds are used to purchase nutritious snacks for the kids.
- **Ingalls Creek Community Outreach:** This ministry of the Ingalls Creek Enrichment Center places a volunteer intern serving those with special needs in our community, including adult family homes and free clinics. The grant supports the costs of the intern.
- **Staying Active and Independent for Life (SAIL):** SAIL is an exercise program designed for senior citizens, which is offered at our church. The grant funded the purchase of small pieces of exercise equipment. Faith Lutheran member Connie Thomassen is an instructor. Our congregants benefit from this program.
- **Upper Valley Historical Museum:** The museum is providing field trips for 4<sup>th</sup> graders that will include speakers with Wenatchi/P'squosa ancestry. The grant will help fund travel expenses for these speakers.
- **FLC Quilters:** The grant request funded a roll of batting. The Faith Lutheran Church quilters have made over 30 quilts so far this year.
- **Free Little Pantry:** The grant will help fund the purchase of food supplies and other staple items for this ministry of Faith Lutheran Church. Groceries for the Free Little Pantry cost between \$350-\$500 per month.





## **IMMIGRATION/RACE JUSTICE GROUP** June 28, 2023

With special guest: Pastor Eva Jensen

**Finances:** Our bank account and recent distributions were reviewed.

**Book Study:** Our next book study on the first 100 pages of *Caste* will be 6:30 pm on Wednesday, July 19 at LOGE. One of our members visited author Sarah Augustine (*This Land is Not Empty*) and had some conversation about a possible visit to Leavenworth in the timeframe August 7 – 12. Initial thoughts are to have two gatherings: a public one at the library and another with just the I/RJG and friends.

**Recreation Ambassadors:** I/RJG is set for Labor Day Weekend, Sat/Sun Sept. 2 & 3. Three folks attended the mandatory training, June 21. The rest will need to view the instructional video.

**Citizenship Classes:** Three students have filled out their citizenship applications and are awaiting an exam date. The fourth student is undergoing a divorce so will have to change his application.

**A Citizenship Study Group** will begin at the P-D library on Tuesdays 6-7 p.m., beginning July 11. Two of our members will help facilitate these informal sessions. Regular classes will begin again Oct. 10.

**US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS):** Community Relations Officer (Tim) and the adjudicating officer from their Yakima office (Patrick) met with Norma Gallegos, Clara the librarian and Alex at the P-D library on Wednesday, June 21. The group discussed ways in which the broader library system might be used to encourage more adults to enroll in citizenship classes. This was the first in person meeting with USCIS in nearly 6 years!

### **Member updates:**

- One member provided some hopefully good news from J.'s lawyer, on her and the two sons' asylum applications (now 10 years in process) based on a recent Supreme Court decision. May it be so!
- Another member commented on a former Cascade H.S. student whom I/RJG helped who came to visit thanking her for the assistance she and her family received which changed their lives. Another one of her students is currently at Western State University this week attending their Summer Biology Camp. We helped "replace" the \$1,000 in lost wages thus enabling him to attend.
- Another member spoke of how Camp Camrec (<https://www.camrec.org>) has been contracting and engaging with local Hispanic workers who have shown interest in attending the first Sunday of the month dinners. In addition, some will be sending some of their children to summer camp. Outstanding outreach work not experienced in the camp's history!
- One of our members received a phone call from E. (Moses Lake) whom we assisted with \$400 in April of 2022. He was initially referred to us by WA Immigration Solidarity Network (WAISN). Due to his ongoing disability and his wife's decreased work hours, he again is seeking assistance for food and bills. Labor and Industry had denied his disability request. The group decided to send him \$500 as well as give him the phone numbers of the Ritzville food bank and a farmer in Warden who might be able to offer him employment. May it be so!

**Advocacy:** Due to schedules and other responsibilities, none of the I/RJG were able to virtually attend the Faith Action Network spring regional meeting in early June.

**Mutual Support:** The group welcomed Pastor Eva to the meeting and shared personal stories.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 23 6:30 p.m.

Book Study: Wednesday, July 19 6:30 p.m. at LOGE



## Remembering Lorna Ullstrom.....

A graveside service for Lorna Ullstrom, member Margaret Neighbor's mother, was held on June 22 in Port Orchard with immediate family present. A memorial service will be held on July 8, 2023 at 2:00 pm at Mountain Meadows and Faith members are invited to attend. After the service, you are invited to join in a time for sharing memories, joys, and consolations, with coffee and cookies. Tributes and Obituary may be found at this link: <https://www.rill.com/obituaries/Lorna-Ullstrom/#!/TributeWall>

## With thanks.....

Dear Faith Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Education Committee of Greater Leavenworth Museum (GLM), I want to thank you for the \$300 donation from the Endowment Fund. We are very grateful for the church's generosity and the committee's diligent effort to sustain donations every year.

Our committee chose to use the money to gift age-appropriate story books about native culture and Upper Valley history books from our museum store, to each fourth grade classroom who visited us on June 12 and 13. The fourth graders have been learning about Washington state history all year and the field trip was the culminating event. Interestingly, we found it remarkable how much the state curriculum matched the museum information.

In gratitude,  
Judy Derpack  
The GLM Education Committee



**Thank you, Karl Kranz, for always "showing up"  
with generous helping hands and expertise.**



## Hats for newborns!



These hats and blanket were recently delivered to the hospital in Wenatchee as a gift to new families from our knitting group! Anyone can knit hats or blankets even if they can't attend the group. Please contact Jan Monroe if interested.

## An invitation from Church Council member Rosalyn Francis....

Rosalyn invites the Faith Lutheran community to attend summer evening backyard concerts at her home, 162 W. Benton St. Monday, July 24 will feature *Fort Vine*, a feel good Indie Folk Duo and Sunday, July 30 the *Birds of Play* will perform. Doors open at 6:00 pm with music at 7:00 pm at each concert.



## Installation of our New Roof!



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 July 19 for the August issue.









