



Life of Faith

June 2023

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From our president....

Resilience and new growth, the song of Spring! My blueberry bushes sat under a manhole cover's weight of ice and snow this winter and emerged from under the snow looking very much diminished and changed this April. This week, new growth abounds in the strong plants and the outlook for sweet fruit is fair to good.

Not so different from our friends and our congregation, maybe. We were crushed beneath the weight of a worldwide deadly pandemic, confined to quarters and asked to hide our smiles from all others but family, very heavy indeed. But soon we meet together and anticipate our outdoor services not in fear of contagion but to celebrate and worship under the open sky in this wonderland we call home.

Furthermore, this Church has a new Pastor and we are looking, together, at building a new parsonage for the church. A venture of Faith, indeed. Already, since we opened the topic at the last congregational meeting I have had meaningful input offered by broad thinking members. We are planning right now, hard work in its own right. I so appreciate those of you that have approached me and opened a dialogue. This is the soil where ideas germinate and grow. I am often impressed and sometimes in a surprised fashion, by the breadth and depth of experience that are stored inside of each of you. Adding our world of individual lifetime experiences together can make quite a new world.

There continue to be new groups asking to use the Fellowship Hall and these diverse groups are fitting nicely into our mission as a community church. We seek wisdom in how to grow well and nourish our community and these groups are wonderful. What is our mission? Check out:

<https://www.flcleavenworth.com/vision--mission-statements.html>

There are people coming to Faith that wish to be members and we will be discussing how to make this happen, I trust there will be classes before the snow flies again. I have some ideas on how we can share our accumulated knowledge with the younger folk in town. The older I get, the more younger folk I see, let's help!

God's Peace,
Karl Kranz





From Pastor Eva ...

Thank you! Thank you for welcoming me so warmly to Faith Lutheran Church and Leavenworth! You met me with gratitude, joy and love that carried me through Holy Week faith into the Joy of Easter resurrection. You prepared for my new beginning and guided me through the full 7-week season of Easter worship and celebrations. You introduced yourselves to me: your names, your stories of life and faith within Faith Lutheran, your care for one another and the community of Leavenworth. You invited me into your homes, shared meals, introduced me to family and friends – welcoming me into your lives. Thank you!

You escorted me into the ministries of Faith Lutheran – worship planning, council leadership, pastoral care concerns, small group ministries, endowment commitments that support community service and justice, community partnerships, ELCA cluster relationships with area congregations, and ELCA synodical life in the Northwest Intermountain Synod. I love the breadth and depth of your engagement and commitments!

You supported me in establishing a home with welcome gifts of flowers, food, and care. You helped me create a home office and provided needed bookcases and a printer. I now have internet to connect my phone and computer communication and file drawers to hold all that helps me to organize.

As faithful congregational members and leaders who tended to your congregational life and one another through the time of your pastoral vacancy, you extended that care to welcoming and equipping me to serve as your pastor. Thank you for topping that off with your generous and joyful gathering for my installation service and beautiful community reception – including a brunch buffet, Danish Cream Cake with berries, champagne, flowers, fun and laughter!

We have celebrated Easter, marveling in the miracle of new life in the risen Christ! We fully embraced seven-weeks of Easter with shared anticipation and hope, curiosity, wonder, and confidence that God is with us.

On the last Sunday in May we will celebrate God’s gift of the Spirit – that amazing presence of God that fills us with breath, expands community, and unites us in faith and hope. I look forward to living into the Pentecost season and exploring together how you imagine sharing your gifts of the Spirit and strengths of deep faith. How do you envision living as God’s body in the world?

Pastor Eva





What's Happening

BOOK GROUP: Each Wednesday from 8:50 – 9:50 a.m., Fellowship Hall.

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: Wednesdays, June 14 and 28, from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall.

QUILT TYING: Tuesday afternoons, from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. or for however long it takes to tie two quilts. We are a little sporadic though so it would be good for new volunteers to contact me (Margaret Neighbors at 509 548-0166) to be notified when the schedule changes. These quilts are created for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and are shipped to areas of need throughout the world. See page 5.

CHURCH COUNCIL: June 22, 6:30 p.m.

IMMIGRATION/RACE/JUSTICE GROUP: June 28, 6:30 p.m.



Interested in becoming a member or friend of Faith Lutheran Church?

Several members of Faith Lutheran Church have given me (Pastor Eva) the names of people who have expressed interest in joining. I would like to plan a series of classes for all who are interested. We would get to know each other, enjoy time together, and have fun! We will also share our faith/spiritual journeys and questions, learn about the Lutheran Church as a faith movement, and explore what joining (as a friend or member) would mean to you and the people of Faith Lutheran.

Please tell Pastor Eva, a congregational leader or call the church and leave a message if you are interested. Give us your phone number and email address.



Special Congregational Meeting About Future Parsonage May 7, 2023

Karl Kranz reported that the purpose of the meeting was to secure congregational input about a possible parsonage. A “parsonage committee” has been formed and includes Karl Kranz, Greg Harris and Greg Steeber. Some research has taken place but no decisions have been made. All decisions regarding real estate require a congregational vote.

Key Goals / Criteria for a new parsonage:

1. There is a need for a New Parsonage
 - In the Leavenworth housing market, Council believes it is critical to provide a parsonage that will be attractive to future pastors, including family
 - Minimum requirements: 3 BR, 2 bath, hopefully an office space, about 1800 sf, nice yard
 - Comfortable home with good layout and nice amenities
 - The synod supports the need for a parsonage at Faith Lutheran
 - Keeping the existing “parsonage” does not meet this goal
 2. Need to utilize the 2 lots we own to east of the sanctuary to maximum benefit
 - The existing parsonage sits on two 30 x 115 ft city lots
 - The existing net 60 x 115 ft parcel is under-utilized in its current configuration and usage
 - The existing lots are in a great location, provide sufficient space to meet the needs for a new parsonage and offer some flexibility for potential options.
 3. Maximize the available green space between the parsonage and the church
 - Since we anticipate the future desire to potentially attract a pastor with a family, having an attractive setting for the parsonage is important. Green space makes the property attractive to the community as well and accommodates outdoor worship options.
- Building possibilities available through Lexar Homes in Wenatchee has been researched. Lexar provides engineering, architecture and construction at a fixed price and offer a variety of standard models and floorplans. They use local construction staff and subcontractors, can deliver a completed home in 6 to 9 months after permits are issued, offer warranties other builders do not and are generally less expensive. Using Lexar Homes would allow us to move the project forward more quickly as local builders are severely backlogged and provide a quality home at an attractive fixed price. Sample floor plans were presented as well as options for location on the property.
 - The pros and cons of other options including church ownership of rental properties in various forms (ADU’s, duplexes, etc.) and incorporating an affordable housing unit were discussed.

Financial information

Anticipated Project Cost = approximately \$500K

Maximum Potential Loan from Mission Investment Fund= approximately \$300K

Existing available funds = approximately \$50 K

Capital Campaign could generate funds of up to \$250K

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Financing options	
<p>Option 1: Minimum Capital Campaign</p> <p>\$500K Project Cost -\$50K Available Funds <u>-\$150K Capital Campaign</u> \$300K Mortgage = Approximately \$2K monthly payment</p> <p>The \$2K monthly amount is less than the current housing differential allowance for our pastor which is \$2300. For reference, the previous parsonage mortgage was \$673/mo which we carried for 20 years until payoff in Feb, 2022.</p>	<p>Option 2: Maximum Capital Campaign</p> <p>\$500K Project Cost -\$50K Available Funds <u>-\$250K Capital Campaign</u> \$200K Mortgage = Approximately \$1.33K monthly payment</p> <p>The \$1330 monthly amount is less than the current housing differential allowance for our pastor who is renting.</p>

QUILTS



Since 1948 Lutheran World Relief has been distributing mission quilts around the world. Twice a year, across the country, Lutheran churches pack up the quilts they've made and deliver them to specific "in-gatherings." For Washington state those events are held in Seattle and Spokane.

From the ingathering sites, the quilts join thousands more quilts, are loaded into shipping containers and sent on to one of two warehouses in Maryland or Minnesota. They are then distributed, along with school, baby, and personal care kits, to

be available for current or future disasters. In fiscal year 2022, 220,317 quilts were created and shipped out to locations around the world. To see where, click on this link:

https://lwr.org/ai_file_subscribe/file/6380

On April 30, Faith Lutheran Church blessed 33 quilts made by FLC's fabulous quilters. On May 5, those quilts were delivered to the Seattle ingathering at Our Redeemer's Lutheran in the Crown Hill neighborhood in Seattle. Our quilts are one very tangible way we manifest God's love in the world - God's work our hands! There are many ways to be part of this ministry. We need tyers (no experience necessary!), sewers, donations of cotton fabric and money to help us buy batting and miscellaneous supplies. For more information on how you can help, please contact Margaret Neighbors at 509 548-0166 or mneighb67@gmail.com. Thank you!

CHURCH COUNCIL



- **Pastor's Report** Highlights include meeting with the local Pastoral cluster, attendance at the Synod Assembly, and participation in the "Festival of Homiletics" in Minneapolis. Pr. Eva continues to meet with members of the congregation and is developing goals for the future. Priorities include organization of a new members group and improving our services and opportunities for worship with children. She is also becoming involved with several of the local pastors groups.
- **Treasurer's Report** Contributions are currently about \$4000 per month behind (\$16K for the year) so contributions need to increase. There is an opportunity to receive 4% interest on federally insured CDs through Cashmere Valley Bank. It was approved to put \$60,000 in separate 7-month CDs.
- **Property Committee** A new roof on the fellowship hall is anticipated but no date set yet. The winter has produced some new damage and the sump pump is a pending project. The current lawn care team will continue. The renter will mow the parsonage yard.
- **Worship Committee** Outdoor worship begins May 28, Pentecost Sunday. Refreshments will be inside the Fellowship Hall.
- **Call Committee** The Call Committee will transition to a *Mutual Ministry Committee*. Members of the new group will be chosen by the President and Pastor and will not include Council members.
- **Parsonage Project Committee** There has been helpful and appreciated input about the parsonage possibility after the congregational informational meeting. After lengthy and deep discussion the council decided to accept all alternate proposals to the Lexar home options, with appropriate deadlines. This will allow us to keep the parsonage project on track, no matter which proposal the congregation selects. A fleshed out idea and conceptual design should be submitted to the Council by June 30, and costs, detailed plans and contractors available to complete the project should be submitted to the Council by September, with the goal of having a congregational meeting at that time to review the options and vote on the way forward.

Old Business

- Don Haven will meet with the Parsonage Committee next week regarding the Capital Campaign.
- Discussed weekly bulletin and decided to postpone action at this time due to lack of staff. It was also decided that we should not purchase Publisher program yet, though it could be useful for bulletin preparation in the future. There are legacy versions of Publisher in some member's PCs.
- The playground/preschool equipment will hopefully be removed this month.
- There will be an inspection of the church bell to look for frayed ropes or structural flaws.

New Business

- Approved subscription to *Sundays and Seasons*, though it is not a budgeted expense.
- The Pastor's vote on the council is neither supported or prohibited in Faith's constitution. The Synod Constitution will be reviewed for direction.
- Mike Camp has suggested ways to work around the problem with nwi.net email addresses. Council will explore Mailchimp as a way of achieving 100% success in sending church emails to all members and friends.
- After discussing the ELCA 'Hunger Grant program', it was decided to forward the grant information to MEND as a more appropriate recipient in the Upper Valley.

Next Council Meeting: June 22, 6:30 PM



NORTHWEST INTERMOUNTAIN SYNOD ASSEMBLY (NWIMS) RECAP

The NWIMS met in assembly April 28 – 30, 2023 in Pasco, WA. Here are some highlights:

- Lauren Johnson and Greg Steeber were the voting representatives from Faith. Other representatives from our congregation included Barbara Rossing who led the assembly in Bible study and a workshop on climate change, Pr. Eva, Mary Steeber as member of synod council and Cindy and Don Haven.
- Pastor Meggan Manlove was elected as the next bishop of the NWIM Synod.
- FLC member Lisa Therrell was elected vice-president. This position is the highest lay office (lay = not pastor or deacon) in the synod.
- Five resolutions were passed unanimously.
- Philorian Mpendaye from our sister synod in Tanzania was in attendance.
- Over \$80,000 was awarded in SHARE Grants to 16 ministries.
- For more information, go to: <https://nwimsynod.org/>

Come Meet Our New Bishop, Meggan Manlove!



Our newly elected bishop, Meggan Manlove, will be visiting our cluster as her very first official trip. Grace Lutheran in Wenatchee is hosting a cluster gathering. Here are the details:

- Sunday July 2, 2023, 12:30 pm lunch
- Suggested donation: \$10 (all eat regardless of ability to donate)
- 1408 Washington Street, Wenatchee
- Get to know Bishop Meggan Manlove, who will be in DAY 2 of her official call!
- Share in conversation, be open to hear and ask questions and to share stories from your ministry context.
- Invite a Faith Lutheran friend to come with you and pre-register at this link so that Grace Lutheran knows how many lunches to order. [Cluster Gathering with Bishop Manlove \(office.com\)](#)

Yes, July 4th is that week, but it would mean a lot if you could make a special effort to attend and give Pastor Manlove a warm welcome. It's great that Bishop Meggan is marking the beginning of her call in our cluster, a place she has never been.



IMMIGRATION/RACE JUSTICE GROUP April 19, 2023

Finances:

- \$500 was received from the Faith Lutheran Church endowment
- Two checks were written during the meeting for \$1,700
- Distributions since Sept. 2022: \$5,483. Distributions in May: \$2,700
- Donations since Sept'22: \$8,379.

Book Study

Our study group will begin reading *Caste: The Source of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. Our first study date TBD after half of the book is read. One of our members was able to have a personal contact with Sarah Augustine, author of our previous book, who indicated enthusiasm in meeting with our group.

Recreation Ambassadors

The Chamber has finalized our dates for this summer. There is a mandatory training, June 21 from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Fire Hall.

Good Used Computers We still have immigrant High School students in need of computers for college.

Distribution List

If you have engaged with a family/student who has received assistance from us in the past, please submit their name to Alex along with a brief description, amount given, and relevant dates if possible.

Citizenship Classes

Three students have filled out their citizenship applications and they have been sent in to US Citizenship and Immigration Services through Norma Gallegos at Wenatchee's Hand In Hand. The fourth student is undergoing a divorce and thus will have to change his application when it is finalized.

Distributions

Two checks were written to immigrant families during our meeting:

- To J.V. \$1,000 for medications and rental assistance.
- To J. for one-week Biology Summer Camp at Western State University, \$1,000 to offset his week's wages. Due to difficult family circumstances, he is the primary income earner. The necessary funds were received from one of our member's extended family members.

Hospital Charity Care

Alex will attend training on Wednesday, May 24 at WVC, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Anyone interested in carpooling should contact him before. He will check with CMC to see if volunteers are needed.

Faith Action Network (FAN)

FAN will have their spring regional summit (virtual) on Sunday, June 4, 3-5 p.m. Register at <https://fanwa.org/event/regional-spring-summits-2/>

Next Meetings

Regular Meeting: Wednesday, June 28, 6:30 p.m.

Book Study: Not scheduled yet

WHY DO I VOLUNTEER?

I once had a T shirt that read “If Mama ain’t happy, ain’t nobody happy”. Flip flop this and to me it reads, if the underprivileged in the valley are suffering, how can I retire to my comfy house on the hill to live in epicurean leisure and be okay with that?

Maybe it has something to do with being a Libra (the balancer). Not that I’m big into astrology but maybe there’s something ordained in the stars explaining why some of us can’t stand it when anything is unfair, unbalanced or unjust.



Or maybe it’s because the unacceptability of selfishness was drilled into me at a young age. Though I perceive myself to be as selfish as the rest of them there’s this perennial tension between the virtue of selflessness and the art of saying “no”. “Boundaries” they say, “Work/Life Balance”. But where’s the Golden Standard here? And what of the Golden Rule?

Getting my rest, recreation and restoration? Yes. But for some of us Norwegians, we really don’t know what to do with a tropical beach. Sitting around while the day is ON only makes us twitchy and broody. Let us loose though, on a snow matted garden in April, a stale, neglected spice rack, an overstuffed closet or a chaotic room full of donations and we’re all over it, happy as can be, restored and energized. Like my grandma says, “Busy hands are happy hands”. And if we can convert raw materials, tattered treasures or unwanted things into sale-able goods that raise funds to benefit local families with need, it’s the sweet spot where work and play become the same thing.

At Faith Lutheran in Leavenworth we seek to walk in “The Way” that Jesus revealed as a whole life style and not a religion. Can we begin to catch the vision of a blessed kingdom/commonwealth where everyone has enough and nobody needs to be afraid? We think of our Shepherd of Love being not so interested in our religiosity but how the poorest and least fare in our midst. The Arc of the Universe, it is said, bends toward love, inclusion and economic justice. When we head this way, she has our back. When we choose otherwise we simply have forgotten who we were created to be.

Upper Valley MEND is an antidote to this amnesia. Without it, things would fall out of kilter. What would we do without this pressure release valve, this avenue of redistribution?

In my 48 years of living well below the poverty line, I learned resourcefulness, simplicity and contentment, even in scarcity and in the forced march of survival. I recognize the exhaustion and exasperation of those caught on this treadmill now and am finally able to help. In beloved community we come into fresh abundance. In our gratitude “We are filled to be spilled (as a pastor friend of mine once sang) in Holy and Boisterous Extravagance”.

Amen, let it be so!

Dawn Kranz
5/1/2023

Remembering Alan Whittlemore....



On Sunday, May 21, there was a memorial luncheon for Alan Whittlemore. His daughter Beth and family provided the food. After the meal, Alex Schmidt opened the sharing with a summary of Alan's life and time at Faith Lutheran Church. Alan was a chemist and a professor. He and his family lived in many places but he and Bernice, his wife, chose to live their final years in Leavenworth. They had never been Lutherans but in 1998 they chose Faith Church and were very active in our life and ministry. Bernice had a long and painful illness and died. Her funeral was in our church and Alex and continued to be a Pastor to Alan in the following years. There were many shared stories at the event and many tributes to Alan's kind, gentle nature and his sense of humor. Besides Faith Lutheran, Alan loved his participation in the "Brain Trust". This is the name chosen by a group of 8 men (four of whom are from FLC) who meet for coffee every week. The goal is to solve the world's problems in an hour. So far the group has not succeeded. Six of the men were in attendance and shared stories of their admiration and love for Alan. When Alan moved to Seattle for health and family reasons the coffee group brought a computer and Lazy Susan to the table at O'Grady's so Alan could be part of the conversation via zoom. When the clinic visit in Seattle was moved to Wednesday, the coffee hour was moved to Thursday. The group counted on Alan's presence and wisdom. Beth closed the event with a touching tribute to her father and thanks to FLC for the support and joy we had given her parents. She gave everyone a card with a picture of Alan and a note of thanks for helping the family celebrate his life. On the card was a quote: *When my father died it was like a whole library had burned down*. This echoed the number of times people had commented on Alan's remarkable intelligence and memory. Alan is greatly missed.

Did you know...



Faith Lutheran member Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing led the Northwest Intermountain Synod in Bible Study at their synod assembly on April 29. She also led a well-attended workshop titled *Shoulder to Shoulder – Caring for God's Creation: Is this a Kairos Moment?* She explored the biblical concept of *kairos* in the new ELCA social message on Climate Justice and our call to "decisive action". Motivated by love and hope, rather than fear and guilt, the bible calls for transformation, as well as at climate science, Lutheran social teaching and the work of grassroots organizations.

Barbara was also the keynote speaker for the 2023 St. Paul Area Synod Assembly in Minnesota on May 13, on *Seven Things That Give Me Hope for the Climate Crisis*. Hear full keynote address here: <https://vimeo.com/827336221?share=copy>

On April 26, Barbara was a workshop presenter at the Spring Convocation of United Lutheran Seminary. She was one of three eco-advocates from the Abrahamic faiths exploring commonalities in our understanding of ecological stewardship. See <https://ministrylink.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Spring-Convo-promo-2023.pdf>

Dr. Rossing is professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

Congratulations, Derek (Buster) Richardson!



On May 9-10, U.S. Ski and Snowboard announced their 2023-24 Stifel U.S. Alpine Ski and Cross-Country Ski Teams. Faith member Derek Richardson, son of Tina and Goeff Richardson, was one of two locals making the development teams (D-Teams). Derek made the 2023-24 Stifel U.S. Cross-Country Ski D-Team after winning the gold medal at the USSA Cross-Country Ski Junior National Championships in March.

He skis for Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage and also represented the USA at the FIS World Junior Ski Championships and won in the sprint category. Derek skied with the Leavenworth Winter Sports Club and the Plain Valley Nordic Team growing up in Leavenworth.

Thank you, thank you!

To Meleah and Tony Butruille for hosting Philorian Mpendaye, General Secretary at Ulanga Kilombero Diocese, our partner in Tanzania, when he was in Leavenworth. And thank you Philorian for conversation with members of Faith on May 6. The informative presentation about your ministries and the beautiful gift, a wood carving in the shape of your country, were all appreciated!

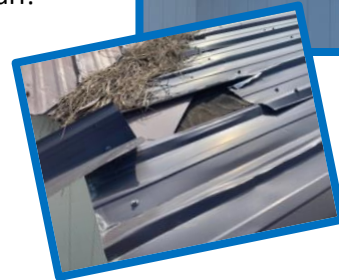




Thank you *Connie and Danny Thomassen!*

Big Red was again loaded. This time with seven 55 gallon bags filled with branches and debris from the church yard on May 17 thanks to the faithful crew of Connie and Danny! Is this how all Norwegians celebrate Syttende Mai? The Thomassens do incredible, hard work in cleaning up our property and keeping it presentable. Thank you!

Thank you to our multi-talented president, Karl Kranz, for noticing the damage to the roof on Fellowship Hall and making a short-term fix using what he had available in his car! This is just a very small part of what Karl does in our congregation. Karl plans and leads council meetings, welcomes worshipers after folding and collating bulletins, watches over the property, addresses questions and concerns from the community with a thoughtful ear and the list goes on and on. Thank you, Karl!



Thanks to all who contributed articles and general interest information for this newsletter! Please forward contributions to Mary Steeber at mary.steeber@gmail.com by June 23 for the June issue.

