



Life of Faith

March 2023

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Pastoral Care concerns: Please contact Rosalyn Francis (509- 433-1043). Rosalyn will connect you with appropriate resources.

From our president...

Snirt! She calls it snirt, as she gazes out at the gray and white piles of what was the white unsullied snowfall of midwinter. Snow and dirt, wrestling to prevail as the earth tilts and the days lengthen. The sun still sets early over a monochromatic landscape, the ice has not released its bitter grip on the driveway but suddenly a Robin's call echoes through the trees.

Hope abounds, Lent will give way to Easter and green grass and daffodils will dance before our eyes in just a cosmic moment. Without the march of the seasons, the joy of summer would be diminished. So it goes with our Earth. The 4 horsemen still ride through the world, heralded by the headlines of war and famine, disease still lurks around the corners but there are more moments of sanity, striking glimpses of breathtaking beauty, good news of unselfish humans at their best.

At Faith there is so much to look forward to this Spring. Apple blossoms and hummingbirds will appear, as if to celebrate Pastor Jensen bringing Spirit and strong ideas and a congregation refreshed. Rosalyn Francis is the new vice president of the church council, Jan Monroe, Greg Steeber and myself were selected again as Secretary, Treasurer, and President respectively. We will launch the search for the right renter for the Parsonage, the Council has determined a rental rate and lease duration. We have at least

one interested person. Greg Steeber and I will begin planning work for a new Parsonage as the need is great and costs are not going down for construction. Please talk to a Council member if you have thoughts about this. The fundraising effort will begin soon.

Spring also means maintenance projects. John Schramm described a particularly exciting moment earlier this month at Book Study when the Fellowship Hall roof decided to release its winter load of snow in a sudden avalanche burying the back stairway. At least the destruction part of replacing those old stair railings is now nearly complete. There will be a sump pump installed under the Fellowship hall to direct the snowmelt out of the crawlspace as it gets wet every Spring. The old roof is going, the new roof is coming! Though we don't have an exact date, we are on the schedule to have the Fellowship Hall re-roofed with metal. It is not leaking yet, which is the best time to replace a roof. Plans are being fleshed out to remove the old playground fence and grade the area behind the church for additional parking. The parsonage garage needs new doors built and installed. Much to do and much to celebrate. I am Thankful for our Church and church family.

Blessings,
Karl Kranz, Council President

SUNDAY TEXTS AND PULPIT SUPPLY



March 5: 2 Lent, Pr. Barbara Rossing
Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17

March 12: 3 Lent, Pr. Barbara Rossing
Baptism of Veronika Elsa Anne Bowman
Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42

March 19: 4 Lent, Pr. Cindy Carroll
1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

March 26: 5 Lent, Pr. Alex Schmidt
Ezekial 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45



What's Happening

BOOK GROUP: Mondays from 8:50 – 9:50 a.m., Fellowship Hall. See page 6.

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 Joyce Price (509) 423-3706 or Connie Thomassen (509) 470-8212 for more information.

KNITTING AND CRAFTS: Wednesday, March 8 and 22, 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.

CHURCH COUNCIL: March 16, 6:30 p.m.

SOUP SUPPER: Each Wednesday, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

TAIZE LENTEN WORSHIP: Each Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

IMMIGRATION/RACE/JUSTICE GROUP: March 22, 6:00 p.m.



ANNUAL MEETING



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING 2023

January 29



- Pr. Barbara Rossing started the meeting with prayer.
- President Karl Kranz announced that Eva Jensen has accepted the call to be our Pastor and will begin April 1, 2023.
- Connie Thomassen will be going off the church council. Karl Kranz was up for re-election and was unanimously elected for another term. Members Greg Steeber, Greg Harris, Janice Monroe, Pete Spiegel, Eric Krumland and Rosalyn Francis remain on the council.
- Greg Steeber and Lauren Johnson were unanimously elected to be voting members to the Synod Assembly in April.
- The Nominating Committee, John Schramm, Barbara Rossing and Margaret Neighbors was unanimously re-elected.
- The Call Committee was recognized for a job well done. Members of the Call Committee were Danny Thomassen, Amy Carlson, Heidi Krumland, Mike Camp, Mary Steeber and Lori Reister.
- There was a brief discussion about the use of the parsonage. Karl Kranz asked that we give this further thought and discuss at a separate meeting.
- Treasurer Greg Steeber reported that in spite of not receiving the typical increase in financial contributions at the end of the year, our finances were stable. This is primarily due to a large, anonymous gift of \$30,000. He presented a variety of charts that illustrated giving patterns over time; reported that 25% of giving is now done electronically and of particular note, in 2019 we had 96 giving units and in 2022, we had 49 giving units. He then presented a proposed budget that will require a 15% increase in giving over the next year compared to 2022, primarily due to the decrease in giving in 2022 and the high cost of housing for our new pastor. The proposed budget was approved unanimously.
- Pr. Barbara Rossing closed the meeting with a prayer.

From Pastor Eva Jensen on February 22, 2023...

On this Ash Wednesday, I begin this Lenten Journey with gratitude, joy, and awe for the call to ministry that Faith Lutheran has extended to me. I pray for God's mercy, love, grace and wisdom to guide and prepare me and us for all that is to come.



LETTER OF CALL
TO A MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Rev. Eva Jensen

With prayers for the guidance of the Holy Spirit
to do God's will,
Faith Lutheran Church - Leavenworth, WA
a congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, meeting on
January 8, 2023
extends to you this call to serve as
Pastor

We call you to exercise among us the ministry of Word and Sacrament which God has established and which the Holy Spirit empowers: To preach and teach the Word of God in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; to administer Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; to lead us in worship; to proclaim the forgiveness of sins; to provide pastoral care; to speak for justice on behalf of the poor and oppressed; to encourage persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel; to impart knowledge of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its wider ministry; to endeavor to increase support given to our congregation to the work of our whole church; to equip us for witness and service; and guide us in proclaiming God's love through word and deed.

In accepting this call, you hereby promise to fulfill this pastoral ministry in accord with the standards and policies for ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Therefore, be diligent in the study of Holy Scripture, in use of the means of grace, in prayer, in faithful service and in holy living.

Specific responsibilities, compensation, benefits, and conditions of this call are contained in a document related to this call. With this call, we pledge our prayers, love, esteem, and personal support for the sake of the ministry entrusted to you by God and for our ministry together in Christ's name.

In testimony of this call, we have subscribed our names on behalf of the congregation on this
8th day of January 2023

 President _____
Secretary _____
Attested by Kristen E.M. Kuempel
Bishop of the Northwest Intermountain Synod
Date of Bishop signing 01/18/2023

CHURCH COUNCIL February 2023



Elections The following persons were elected to another two-year term: Karl Kranz – President, Rosalyn Francis – Vice President, Jan Monroe – Secretary, Greg Steeber – Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

- Although the Endowment Fund is up \$1000, it is still lower than last year due to the market.
- Contributions were very low in January.
- We will be making changes to how we pay our benevolences. ELCA, World Hunger/ELCA, Lutheran World Relief will be paid on a quarterly basis. MEND will be paid twice a year and Council Designated Giving, Faith Action Network (LPPO), Grunewald Guild and Holden Village once a year.
- Deanne Erickson was paid for her help with creating the church directory.
- The property tax form for the exemption on the parsonage needs to be completed by March 31.

Property Committee Snow shoveling continues. The hand railing on the west side of the Fellowship Hall was destroyed by falling snow and will need to be rebuilt this spring. Other projects include installing a sump pump, creating French drains on the west side of the building, repairing the small shed, removing the playground equipment to make way for parking spaces and installing a garage door for the parsonage garage.

Worship Committee will meet on Tuesday, 2/28 with Eva joining via zoom.

Endowment Committee Applications for endowment grants are being accepted through March 31. Applications forms will be mailed to the congregation.

Other business

- Greg Steeber is looking into what needs to be done to keep facebook, the website and the delivery of virtual worship more consistently up to date.
- Pr. Barbara Rossing has encouraged everyone to read the *Living Lutheran* magazine. The church will pay the subscription fee for anyone who would like it.
- Pr. Dave Haven will be contacted soon to begin plans for a service of installation for Eva Jensen.
- Newsletter delivery to nwi email addresses continues to be problematic. Some people have changed their email addresses. Danny Thomassen has offered to pay for the printing and mailing of the newsletter to people who can't get it by email.
- The rental of the parsonage was discussed. There are at least two parties interested. Lease arrangements and monthly rate were decided.
- Rosalyn would like to do a fundraiser at church. Any ideas?
- Creating a weekly worship bulletin was discussed and tabled for next month.
- Occasionally we get requests for the use of our tables and chairs. It seems prudent to create some kind of guidelines / protocols for these inquires. Karl will write a draft for discussion.

Next Council Meeting: March 16, 6:30 p.m.

FAITH LUTHERAN ENDOWMENT GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD IS NOW OPEN

The Faith Lutheran Endowment Committee is now accepting applications for small grants from our endowment until March 31, 2023. Distribution will be fairly small because of the rough year for the stock market in 2022. With that in mind, please think about asking for a modest amount so that the money can go around.



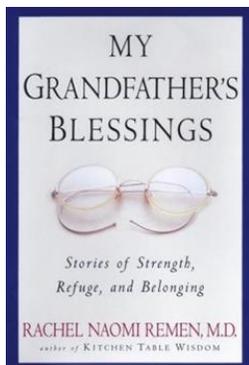
The endowment resolution established by our congregation is followed closely. Grants are distributed in the following percentages.

1. Minimum of 20% for outreach into the local community or synod.
2. Minimum of 20% for Churchwide ministries.
3. Minimum of 20% for extraordinary programs/capital improvements or other ministry initiatives within this congregation.
4. Minimum 10% for other non-profit humanitarian organizations.
5. Remaining 30% distributed through any of the above categories.

The application will be sent to the church email list or you can request an application from Lisa Therrell at merrymulsears@msn.com or committee members Debbie Florea and Jan Monroe. Please contact any of us if you have questions.

Last year grants were awarded to the following programs/projects: Immigration/Race Justice Group, Dangerous Women, Cascade School District Drama Program, Cascade PTO screening the movie "Screenagers", Cascade Kodiak art supplies, Lutherans Restoring Creation, C.E.I.P.A.: Luceritos, Tumaini Boarding School, Men in the Mirror and the Ingalls Creek Enrichment Center.

The Endowment fund will continue to grow with the generous support of our members/friends allowing for more distributions in the years ahead. Please consider contributing to the endowment.



FAITH LUTHERAN BOOK STUDY

The intrepid Faith Lutheran Book Study Group is starting a new book: *My Grandfather's Blessings* by Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D. The book is based on the premise that "Life has given us many more blessings than we have allowed ourselves to receive." It contains short chapters that can be applied to our own lives. Our plan is to read a chapter each day (think daily devotional) and that we will discuss them together when we meet each Monday morning. I'm hoping this will become obvious once we start! Books can be ordered from *A Book For All Seasons* or your usual source. Hope to see you on Monday mornings from 8:50 to 9:50 AM in the fellowship hall. Interested? Please contact Margaret Neighbors 509 548-0166 for more information



IMMIGRATION/RACE JUSTICE GROUP February 22, 2023

- **Finances:** Advent Lutheran, Spokane Valley, granted our request for \$700 with an endowment gift of \$1,103! Plus, we received \$200 in cash from our Benevolent Night at München Haus and will soon receive an additional amount from 25% of the sales that evening.
- **Flyer:** The flyer that was prepared was well received at the MH fundraiser. Suggestions were made for the upcoming revised version.
- **Book Study:** We have begun reading *The LAND is NOT EMPTY: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery*. The study group will meet once to discuss the book. Date to be determined. It was suggested that we invite the author, Sarah Augustine, to speak at the library for a community educational event.
- **Time Magazine:** We reviewed two articles from the last two TIME issues: Ibram X. Kendi's *Changing How We Think About Racism* reviewing his new book geared for youth and Isabel Wilkerson's *Our Enduring Discontents: How to Understand America* a selection from her award winning book of the same name.
- **Direct Support:** The possibility that there may be students in need of financial help to register for Driver's Education is being looked into.
- **AVID Update:** I/RJG participants reflected on their two class sessions helping students to fill out applications for financial aid. All said it was valuable time spent and will do it again.
- **Citizenship and ESL Classes:** Two students continue with Citizenship Classes at the Peshastin Library. There is rumor that the application will soon be changed as well as an increased cost.
- **Assisted Families:** One of our members reported that a family we have assisted was able to access State funds for COVID assistance. Discussion was held on the value of having a current list of families that have been assisted to keep from overlooking opportunities.
- **Advocacy:** A member mentioned an upcoming training she will be involved with for a self-assessment inventory on cross-cultural competency. Perhaps taken by our group?
- Continue being attentive to local, national and world news and see how you might help support these vital NGOs and advocates for justice.
- **Next Meeting:** March 22, 6:00 pm. Contact Alex for details, 509.548.7012 or lxhappns@nwi.net



From the Northwest Intermountain (NWIM) Synod

Pastor Dane Breslin and Jess Ingman are exploring a new ministry in the NWIM Synod called "Cultivating Justice". It focuses on connecting people around anti-racism work in the greater Wenatchee area ([learn more about it here](#)). As part of this new ministry, the synod is sponsoring a Lenten book and gathering series focused on antiracism practice, contemplative prayer and moving into action. The book will be *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla F. Saad. The gatherings will be Mondays, 2/27, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM at Sunnyslope Church (COB/UCC), 3330 School St., Wenatchee. Please contact Jess Ingman (jess.h.ingman@gmail.com) for inquiry & RSVP or Pr. Dane Breslin (rev.dane.breslin@gmail.com).

Living Lutheran

Our presiding bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, sends a message to the church in each issue of the *Living Lutheran* magazine. Read her latest message, *The Blurring of Law and Gospel* here: <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2023/01/the-blurring-of-law-and-gospel/>

If you do not receive *Living Lutheran*, please contact Mary Steeber (mary.steeber@gmail.com) to be added to the church's group subscription.

Medical care assistance...

Upper Valley MEND's free clinic program (Upper Valley Free Clinic) received some funding through the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA)—approximately \$300,000—to support individuals in the Upper Valley who are uninsured or underinsured and whose income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, regardless of immigration status. This is individual income rather than family income so a 26 year old making \$27,180 a year or less, though living at home with other family members earning well above the poverty level, would be eligible.

Do you know anyone needing help with medical care costs?

This grant covers payment of past medical bills, current prescription costs, dental work up to \$10,000 and vision care for eligible individuals including exam and cost of spectacle lenses and frames. It also pays the salary for MEND's social worker, Liz Hurtado. Funds need to be spent by June of 2024 or they will be returned to HCA. If you know of folks who might be eligible, encourage them to call Liz at MEND-509 293-8062 and she will do an evaluation to check their eligibility for this grant. It is intended for people living or working from Cashmere to Stevens and Blewett Passes, though we are reviewing individuals from down valley as well. Questions? Contact Karl Kranz or the Free Clinic.

The Faith Lutheran knitting group is knitting baby hats and blankets for the hospital in Wenatchee. This note was received recently.....

New Year!
Thanks again for thinking of our babies
Sincerely,
OB Staff Confluence Health

Dear Knitting Group 2/9/23
Thank you so much for all the hats you made! It's great to get hats that actually fit! So often I receive hats that are way too big! Yours are perfect! Thank you too for the gift of your time!
Hope you are all staying healthy in this



WITH THANKS.....

- To all who sign up for coffee hour and thanks to all who just show up with treats. The fellowship is enjoyed by all!
- To those who tend the Free Little Pantry and their encouragement for participation.
- To those who bring trash and recycling bins in and out each week.
- To the entire congregation for boldly committing to a robust budget increase in the next year.



As disciples in Christ, the people of Faith Lutheran Church 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.”

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 March 24 for the April issue.

