



Life of Faith

NOVEMBER 2023

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Pastor Eva Jensen

From our president....

This month I simply have to talk about our neighbors. It is not gossip, it's just straight talk. We share them with the Carlson's and the Murphy's up here on the hill. Don't get me wrong, not only do we love them but we learn important things from their interesting ways. We have learned to Respect them, with a capital 'R'.

We'll call the head of the family Pops. This dude has long hair, a sizable belly, big fellow, never says a word, exudes attitude. We don't actually see much of him. Momma, she is a sweetie. She takes good care of the little ones, she keeps them fed, though their diet is not like ours. She must have the night shift, we rarely see her around in the daytime. Mostly they keep to themselves, mind their own business, get a little noisy sometimes, that's OK.

Last evening we had some friends over for cider pressing at our house. It was good fellowship and a lot of fun. We washed the apples, cut them up, discarded the bad spots, threw them in the cider mill and crushed them into sweet juice with a hand crank press. We dragged the apple pulp way off into the woods and dumped it in a pile. Stories were told and it was fine to be together.



Well, there we were, sitting around the picnic table eating chili and having the best Sunday evening in a while, soaking up the last rays of a nice stretch of fall weather, when one of those neighbors dropped by for some evening calories. We shared a meal together, more or less, on the last lovely day of Fall, as Momma Bear snacked on the spent apples out there in her woods.

Yep, these are our neighborhood black bears and we have spent decades on the hill learning to coexist peacefully together. Some of these rules work well for people you live close to, you know? Respect each other. Avoid the unexpected action. Clean up after yourself. Learn your neighbor's ways and habits, let them see how you live too, different is not necessarily bad.

There are some special bear rules, though. Bears are very smart and learn quickly and this time of year they are very eager to store up bear fat for winter. Trash cans are easy prey, even a lock and chain may not thwart a bear and cans are best kept inside. The church trash can was knocked over on the street last week.

Keep your distance - they are wild animals, much faster than humans - uphill, downhill or climbing a tree. For a black bear moving closer to you, be loud and proud. Look big, make noise, do not run. Don't keep food in your car, bears in other areas have learned to break and enter vehicles.



Bears are part of God's amazing world and we are made richer by sharing their territory with them.

Karl Kranz



From our pastor...

The earth is the Lord's, and all that dwells therein ... (Psalm 24)

How do we befriend this gift of life, arise as a part of a beautiful world?

I'm feeling some sadness as the colors of Fall slip away
And the days turn to night too early.

What will winter hold?
Behold.

The bears wander and seek their winter homes.
God lives in the turning of the seasons and our lives.

God lives to raise us up to all that will unfold.

Arise my love, my fair one ... (Song of Songs, 2:10)

God beckons, promising to be with us.

And so we rest, and we rise
To live, to give thanks, and to celebrate.

The earth is the Lord's and all that dwells therein.

We are held in an expansive embrace of beauty and love.
We are created to love – life, ourselves, and every living cell that is ...
Everything bears the image of God.

In the transitions and seasons of our lives
may we be filled with awareness, awe, and wonder
with one another
and the Holy One who has made us, saved us, and sustains us.

I am thankful for you, dear people of Faith, and our journey together!

Pastor Eva





What's Happening

Sunday, October 29

We will be blessing 33 quilts made by our FLC quilt group for Lutheran World Relief. After being blessed, these quilts will be taken to the Ingathering at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in Seattle where they will join other quilts from our area and be transported to holding locations throughout the country. They, ultimately, will be distributed wherever they are needed around the world to bring comfort, hope and love to our neighbors in need.

Sunday, November 5: All Saints Sunday

On this *All Saints Day* we will remember people of faith who have died in the past year, members of Faith Lutheran Church and family and friends who have nurtured us in faith and life.

Please email the names of people you want to recognize and remember in prayer during worship to the church office with a brief line about who they are and relation to you/FLC.

Sunday, November 12:

The Rev. Liv Larson Andrews (she/hers), Director for Evangelical Mission, NWIM Synod of the ELCA will be with us in worship. She will preach and meet with us after worship to tell us about her role in the Synod, her visionary thoughts and ideas and welcome our ideas, questions and reflections.

BOOK GROUP: Each Tuesday from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Margaret Neighbors, 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: November 1, 15, 29, 1:30 – 3:00, Fellowship Hall

QUILT TYING: Each Tuesday from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

CHURCH COUNCIL: November 15, 6:30 p.m.

IMMIGRATION/RACE AND JUSTICE GROUP: November 15, 6:30 p.m.



CHURCH COUNCIL October 2023

- Pr. Eva attended the Bishop's Convocation in Clarkston this week where there was an emphasis on indigenous peoples and how we as people of Faith may view these issues. Several pastors from our local cluster also attended. A notable speaker was Vance Blackfox. The Tuesday night membership classes are going well with 6 attendees the first night. The classes will go into the first two Tuesdays of November.
- Faith received \$2,600 from the Chamber for participation as ambassadors at Oktoberfest.
- Thanks to the work day, the list of chores for the Property Committee is much shorter. Yet to be completed are water heater and sump pump placement, cricket repair on parsonage, and irrigation winterization. Zeke and Karl will complete these tasks.
- Worship planning for the Advent / Christmas seasons is underway. During Advent, there will be Wednesday evening soup suppers at 6:00 p.m. followed by Holden Evening Prayer t 7:00 p.m. These dates include December 6, 13, 19. Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00 p.m. and Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m.
- Margaret Neighbors is selling her home this winter. There was discussion about whether this could be an additional parsonage option. The Parsonage Committee will look into the feasibility of considering this option.
- Gratitude was extended to our new (returning) office administrator, Deanne Erickson for her excellent work! Church mail to nwi.net addresses is now functional thanks to her efforts. We now have a Gmail business account which will also allow for focused email address for church emails; for example, president @ FLC, Bookkeeper @ FLC, etc. when they get set up.
- The Fall work party was a lot of fun. We got a lot of work done around the church in addition to watching the Autumn Leaf parade go by!
- Fellowship Hall Scheduling Guidelines have been set up. The two groups experiencing a schedule conflict have developed a workable plan until next Fall. At that time, the overlap will be anticipated and resolved early. An AA group is considering use of the sanctuary. Morgan won't consider an afternoon class again until next fall.
- There was discussion about the outdoor Adirondack chairs; where should they be stored, should they be replaced?
- Current parsonage rental agreement started in June with the lease extending to the end of the year. It then converts to a month to month rental.
- Nominating Committee: There are three positions up for renewal. Greg S and Eric have reached their term limits. Treasurer position and perhaps Secretary will be open for election.
- Leavenworth has an association (ministerium) of local pastors. There was discussion of whether we as a church have the ability to be part of the leadership at this time. After consideration, the Council feels we should be a part of the group but not a part of leadership until Pastor Eva is more established. We can revisit this in the future.
- An environmental lecture series sponsored by Faith along the lines of 'Great Decisions' is a new idea worth developing.
- Gmail scam - Council members in particular have received phishing offers with Karl's email signed 'Karl Kranz president ELCA' soliciting cash or gift card purchases. This is a scam as a result of a prior gmail hack. Do not respond to these solicitations.
- Next Meeting: November 16, 6:30 pm





Immigration/Race Justice Group (I/RJG) *October 19, 2023*

- Our Current CVB account was reviewed. This includes a \$1,000 deposit for our volunteering as Recreation Ambassadors as well as the \$1,500 distributed to three families/individuals since September for home fire loss, rent, and medical assistance.
- One of our former group members, now studying immigration law at the U. of Minnesota, received a Minnesota Justice Foundation Outstanding Service Award from the U. of M. Her mom went to attend the presentation.
- Citizenship/Literacy Classes: Both have begun at the Peshastin Library on Tuesday nights beginning at 6 p.m. One citizenship student, 7 English students and 4 total volunteers. Three citizenship students just passed their final exam in Yakima on 10/17!! Now they await a final Naturalization Ceremony, time/date to be determined.
- One member indicated that two members of a family with whom we have journeyed will need to appear at the Federal Immigration Court in Seattle the morning after Thanksgiving. An important appointment and it's uncertain and concerning as to what will happen to their many years long process.
- Our Immigration Graduation Specialist at Cascade High School has 5 students who will be taking Driver's Education in February. These are vital steps for any family to take as it helps with schooling, employment, medical appointments, etc. Registration is \$525 per student (\$2,625 total) with no local or state financial aid. Families will be asked to contribute as they are able, at least \$100 per student. We are hoping to assist with at least \$1,300 which will nearly deplete our resources.
- We have been in contact with a previous family in Moses Lake which we have helped previously. They are requesting funding for rent, food, utilities and more. We would send \$200 but the individual has not continued the conversation.
- Three of our members attended the NW Immigrant Rights Project annual social at Icicle Ridge Winery on Wednesday, Oct. 18. Good connections and conversations were the highlight.
- We are now officially registered with the Washington Immigration Solidarity Network (WAISN) a statewide advocacy umbrella of over 400 organizations.
- Next meeting: Wednesday, November 15, 6:30 (for details, call Alex, 509.548.7012)

Financial donations for Driver's Ed would be lovely!!
For a tax deduction, send to Faith Lutheran POB 418
Leavenworth, WA 98826 (designate I/RJG) or directly on
our website (PayPal) <https://irigroup.wixsite.com/irjg>



From our Presiding Bishop....

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?" —Psalm 22:1



**Evangelical
Lutheran**
Church in America

Dear church,

As Lutherans, we are accustomed to holding tension between two truths. Thus, the ELCA denounces the egregious acts of Hamas, acts that have led to unspeakable loss of life and hope. At the same time the ELCA denounces the indiscriminate retaliation of Israel against the Palestinian people, both Christian and Muslim.

For the past week we have borne witness to the horrors of the escalating crisis between Israel and Hamas. We also watch a growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza as Israel blocks food, water, fuel and medical supplies and as airstrikes continue to cause unbearable civilian casualties ahead of a just-announced ground assault. We see Israelis and families around the world in the agonizing wait for word about the fate of loved ones killed or taken hostage by Hamas. We are in anguish, grieving and praying for all people who are living in trauma, fear and uncertainty.

Among us are Palestinian Lutherans who are fearful for their families, their communities and their homeland. In our communities we have Jewish and Muslim neighbors, who are also facing the horrors of this crisis and its impact on their loved ones.

It is difficult to find words that suffice in the complexity of this moment, and in the web of relationships that bind us together, as church, with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and our interreligious partners. Yet God has called us to be a people who stand with others amid suffering.

We must also call a thing a thing. The power exerted against all Palestinian people — through the occupation, the expansion of settlements and the escalating violence — must be called out as a root cause of what we are witnessing. We are committed to our long-standing accompaniment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

The God who liberates us calls us to be a liberating witness. May it be so.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Things you can do:

- Find updated resources and statements from the ELCA [here](#).
- Join our partner Churches for Middle East Peace for prayer every Wednesday from 12:30 to 1 p.m. Eastern time. Register [here](#).
- Call your lawmakers today through the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and urge them to take action to deescalate the conflict and uphold unrestricted humanitarian aid to Gaza. Find your member of Congress at [govtrak](#).
- Support Lutheran Disaster Response [here](#).



Members of Faith Lutheran participated in the Chamber of Commerce sponsored Ambassador's Program during the 2023 Oktoberfest in Leavenworth. Our group served for two weekends in the *Trachten Troupe* category serving to help direct people, answer questions, take pictures for guests, provide feedback to organizers, help with the keg tapping, various contests, etc. In return, Faith Lutheran will receive \$2,600! Thank you, volunteers!

Not pictured is Pastor Eva





Greetings from MaryCarol.....

John and Susan Butruille recently visited former FLC member MaryCarol Nelson in her home in Hailey, Idaho. MaryCarol sends greetings to FLC friends and thanks for the prayers and get-well wishes. She is doing well following foot surgery and hopes for healing in time for cross country skiing.

It will come as no surprise to those who know MaryCarol that her yard is beautiful and productive and her gracious home is a space for fine art, including hers. John and Susan enjoyed a walk along autumn leaf-lined trails with MaryCarol and enjoyed an elegant dinner of Idaho trout and potatoes prepared by MaryCarol and her daughter, Svea.



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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 by November 24 for the December issue.



