



## Life of Faith

APRIL 2024

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Pastor Eva Jensen

Dear Friends,

I am Grateful! A short and simple phrase, but it can mean so much. I am most thankful to live in and be a part of this Upper Valley Community. The dedication and energy I saw displayed during our Capital Campaign astounded me, though I never doubted that it was there. Faith, exhibited! I am often an optimist but the giving was fourfold my expectation. Miraculous.

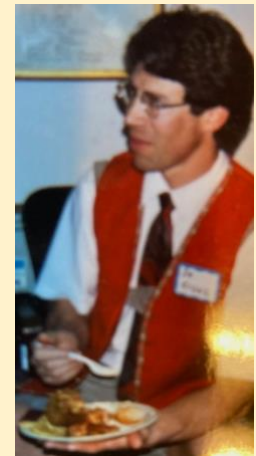
I was given some photos that have been on the wall in the break room at our local clinic since I arrived in 1993. After 30 years, they were returned to me, which launched this chain of thoughts:

Why did I come to Leavenworth? I was Called, could not resist, threw away our old lives in Oregon and on a leap of faith transported our young family to this new community. We knew no one, the hospital was struggling, the last full time family practice doctor had just been sacked. What was I thinking of?

What was it like? Bloody hard work the first few years. Emergency Room call 3 nights a week, so many administrative issues (the new outsourced billing system acquired the second year I was here sent most of the people in town to Collections). A series of physicians, flowing into the practice and within their first year, out again. Life was better in the middle years and truly a daily blessing for the last 2 decades of practice.

Why did we stay? Because we gave to the community and they gave back to my family abundantly. Because we could make a difference. Because I became part of my patients and they became part of me. I stayed because I could see the vision and felt I was hardy enough to ride the tornado. Fortunately, it was the right thing to do and I rode it through to the sunshine, as being bucked off a tornado is undoubtedly quite uncomfortable.

What did it mean to become part of this community of Leavenworth? Everything, actually. My country neighbors up Eagle Creek taught me, lovingly, to be a true neighbor. When the biggest snows in 50 years landed on us in the 90's and I had pushed as much snow as my tractor could push in a losing battle, my neighbor Royal Hinthorne rode up on his big tractor and dug us out with his bucket. He was morally offended that I offered to pay him for his day of work. "No, I'm your neighbor," said he. Jack Shaffer lived up the Creek a ways, came by while I was cutting a log truck load into firewood. He heard the chainsaw, appreciated the scene and spent the afternoon showing me how to safely use that saw, sharpen it, care for it, and by the way, trained me to use the big scythe to cut my pasture grass. I still have that tool he left for me when he passed on.



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Where did Faith Lutheran fit into this scene? Later, actually. I was unchurched and proud of it when I came to town. God was in the forests, in the air, all around me, I was a believer but I had no time for church. Disaster struck as Cancer took my wife Kathleen at age 45. My world went black but as she died I saw the Hand of God. Lutheran women watched my daughter on the nights that I had to work in the Emergency Room and when I did return to work I found Faith Lutheran and was Baptized here.

And what have I learned? Living in a community is not the same as living as a community. Loving your neighbor is very hard work, and it always returns more than you put in, though it may take years to see it. I had to open my heart and set aside my pride to see my community as it should be seen. "You are Right, I was Wrong, and I am Sorry" are powerful phrases in a town where everybody knows everybody. Faith Lutheran is made up of a caring, loving group of people that embody community as it should exist.

I am Grateful!

Karl Kranz  
Church Council President



## Faith Lutheran worship schedule...

**Maundy Thursday: Thursday, March 28, 7:00 pm**

**Good Friday: Friday, March 29, 7:00 pm**

**Easter Vigil: Saturday, March 30, 8:00 pm**

**EASTER: Sunday, March 31**

**9:30 am worship followed by Potluck Brunch**

**April 7: Pr. Eva Jensen**

**April 14: Pr. John Hergert**

**April 21: Pr. Barbara Rossing**

**April 28: Pr. Eva Jensen**

## From Pr. Eva....

I am writing to you on the eve of Palm Sunday. Tomorrow we will gather for worship raising our palms in praise to Jesus – the human one in whom God came to us in love and to lead us into new life. I am searching for an Easter message for you as I write this letter. And yet, these are days in the life of a pastor and worshipping community when we commit to walking with Jesus in his passion the last week of his life.

Easter is coming, and yet, it is too soon to write . . . too early to see, while living this most Holy Week of Jesus' passion for the world.

Pastor Jan Richardson invites us, with a poem and scripture from the Gospel of Matthew 27:61, to join Mary Magdalene and the other Mary who sit at the tomb where Joseph of Arimathea has laid Jesus' body.

## In the Breath, Another Breathing

### *For Holy Saturday*

Let it be  
that on this day  
we will expect  
no more of ourselves  
than to keep  
breathing  
with the bewildered  
cadence  
of lungs that will not  
give up the ghost.

Let it be  
we will expect  
little but  
the beating of  
our heart,  
stubborn in  
its repeating rhythm  
that will not  
cease to sound.

Let it be  
we will  
still ourselves  
enough to hear  
what may yet  
come to echo:  
as if in the breath,  
another breathing;  
as if in the heartbeat,  
another heart.

Let it be  
we will not  
try to fathom  
what comes  
to meet us  
in the stillness  
but simply open  
to the approach  
of a mystery  
we hardly dared  
to dream.

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary  
were there, sitting opposite the tomb.  
Mt. 27:61

The Gospel Word for Easter this year in Mark 16 *draws us* to the tomb as well. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices to anoint Jesus' body; they found the stone rolled away. Tomb empty. Stunned silence. Stunned by the empty tomb, the faithful women invite us to the awe and mystery of Easter Resurrection – an empty tomb. This is the Gospel story that invites us to open ourselves to approach the mystery of God we've hardly dared to dream.

Christ is Risen! And the empty tomb will open us to new life we have not yet imagined. God bless us as we turn to the Holy One who calls us into ventures of which we cannot see the ending . . . . 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 sustaining us.

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!  
Pastor Eva

By Jan Richardson, from Circle of Grace, A Book of Blessings for the Seasons



**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) with questions. All are welcome.

**SAIL** (Staying Active and Independent for Life) Tuesday and Thursdays, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall. Seniors 65 and older are welcome to join this free program. Contact Connie Thomassen (509) 470-8212 for information.

**KNITTING AND CRAFTS:** April 3 and 17, 1:30 – 3:00 in Fellowship Hall

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

**CHURCH COUNCIL:** April 25, 6:00 pm

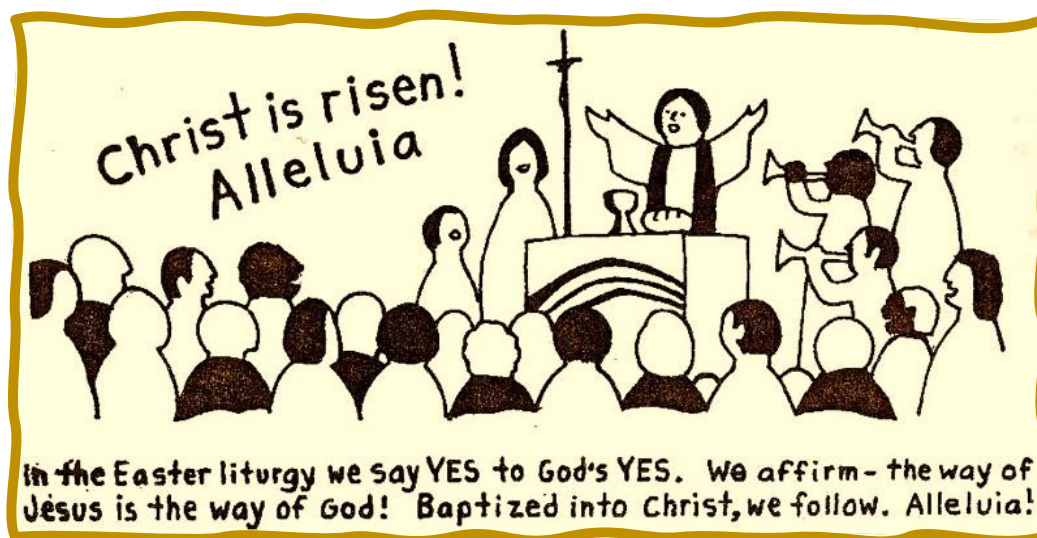
**IMMIGRATION/RACE AND JUSTICE GROUP:** April 10, 6:00 p.m.

**EARTH STEWARDSHIP GROUP:** April 2, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

**ECOFAITH SUMMIT KEYNOTE ADDRESS:** April 6, 7:45 a.m. (details on page 6)

**BIRD WATCHING:** April 7, 11:00 a.m. (details on page 7)

**EARTH DAY:** April 21 – Join the Leavenworth community at Enchantment Park to learn about creation care in our area



# CHURCH COUNCIL

March 2024



**Pastor Report:** Pastor Eva's report was reviewed, discussed and appreciated

## Treasurer's Report

- Giving remains below budget but expected at this time of year.
- Pledges are coming in for the capital campaign. At the April 1 closing of the Tumwater house, we will take \$227,000 out of our account. The mortgage amount will be \$225,000. It is a 7 year adjustable rate at 7.25 percent that can be adjusted annually as we receive money from the campaign and pay down the principal. Initial monthly mortgage payment will be \$2,054 with a 15 year amortization. A church member is providing \$120,000 as a bridge loan. The amount of \$570,000 will be our total closing costs as earnest money already paid. Appraisal for the property came in at \$640,000.

## Property Committee

- Margaret will move out of the Tumwater house five weeks from closing which is May 7.
- The house needs to be furnished, carpets cleaned, gutters repaired and some yard work and painting completed. Eva will need help moving by May 31.
- The sewer line repair is top priority. The sump pump project can wait.
- A new printer for the church has been purchased.
- A remodel of the fellowship hall & outdoor space was discussed but at this time, the focus will be the church plumbing and move into Tumwater property.

## Worship Committee

- LeAnn and Dave Haven have been a great musicians for worship while Susan recovers.
- Susan has been mindful in her current work and sends communication to the whole team that keeps everyone "on the same page". She also takes responsibility for reporting use of copyrighted materials.
- Printing new *Now the Feast and Celebration* service bulletins was discussed. It was noted that if any changes are made, we need to do it properly to avoid copyright infringement.

## Endowment Committee

- Letters of invitation for grant requests have been sent. One application has been received.

## Old Business

- Greg Harris reported that there is much interest in the Earth Stewardship Group and plans are underway for exciting new opportunities.
- Greg Steeber shared that Don Haven and Cindy Carroll, our campaign consultants through *Abundant Congregations*, have donated the remainder of their fees for the rest of the campaign (\$15,000). One of the pledges received in the campaign is from a member of our community to cover the designation of our committed 10% benevolent pledge to MEND.

## New Business

- A resolution was passed to allow council president, Karl Kranz and treasurer, Greg Steeber, to sign real estate property transactions with regarding the purchase of Tumwater property.
- There was discussion surrounding evaluation of congregational and pastoral leadership.

**Next Council Meeting:** April 25 at 6:00pm – hybrid meeting for Greg H.



Pastor Eva's Installation at Faith Lutheran, April 23, 2023





## Faith's Earth Stewardship Group Please Join Us!

How do you care for God's creation? Are you concerned about Climate Change and what impacts it will have on people across the globe? Are you interested in exploring with others what it means to be good stewards of God's creation? Have you wondered what you can do, or what we can do as a congregation and as a community to make a difference in addressing these issues and others?

We are in the process of reinvigorating the Earth Stewardship Group at FLC to explore these issues together and developing ideas on how to take actions. If you are interested in joining such a group or just learning more about it, please join us **April 2, at 6:30 pm** in the fellowship hall.

### Current plans:

Bird Walk: April 7 with Heather and Patrick Murphy after church on April 7. Details on page 7.

Earth Day: April 21

- Professor Barbara Rossing will preach in worship with a focus on Creation Care
- Attend the Leavenworth Earth Day Community Fair to learn about what is happening in our area.

Climate + Faith Devotional Series: After Easter we will conduct a six-week devotional series entitled *Climate+Faith: How We Can Help Meet the Greatest Challenge in Human History*. Watch for details!

### Recommended Lectures/webinars:



ECOFAITH SUMMIT: Larry Rasmussen is a renowned Christian environmental ethicist who is author of many books including *The Planet You Inherit: Letters to my Grandchildren* and has taught many times at Holden Village.

April 6 at 7:45 a.m. (Pacific Time). Register at:  
<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/An-Invitation-from-Larry-Rasmussen--EcoFaith-Summit-2024-Keynote-Speaker-.html?soid=1134176315952&aid=Y--EaObgpAA>

KAIROS FOR CREATION, KAIROS FOR MISSION: HOPE FOR OUR COMMON HOME: Listen to Barbara Rossings Keynote address to the 2024 World Mission Institute Feb. 29, 2024 (beginning at minute 22) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xa1r6V3ywAw>

SEVEN THINGS THAT GIVE ME HOPE FOR THE CLIMATE CRISIS: Barbara Rossing's workshop at our synod assembly last year was similar to this 25-minute talk at the St Paul Synod Assembly. Listen at: <https://spas-elca.org/synod-assembly/2023-synod-assembly/>

## Faith Lutheran and Friends Bird Walk

We will meet after church, carpool to Icicle Bridge Creek and look for returning warblers, flycatchers and hummingbirds. In the river we will look for harlequin ducks and American Dippers. We will talk about ecology and how it influences our lives.

All are welcome!

- April 7, 11:00 a.m.
- Leaders: Heather and Patrick Murphy
- Walking shoes, ½-2 miles, water & snacks, plan 1 hr. walk
- Return at 1 p.m. or stop over at O'Grady's for lunch.



## Christian Nationalism and Lutheran Social Teachings by Lisa Therrell



The political climate is certainly ramping up in the good 'ol U. S. of A. I don't know about you, but I certainly have moments of angst, anxiety, and thinking, "How will we ever get through this year?" I am trying to become more articulate in expressing my faith values and one of those things is resisting Christian Nationalism. But I often look to others for words, when my own seem to fail me.

Well, fortunately ELCA deep thinkers are there to help out! Here are several resources—

- The ELCA developed a recent statement including a 4 page handout taking a stand against Christian Nationalism. "America's historic commitment to religious pluralism enables faith communities to live in civic harmony with one another without sacrificing our theological convictions." This is a snippet from that statement. Here is a link for more: [ELCA presiding bishop, Christian leaders issue statement against Christian nationalism - ELCA](#)
- The document above contains a link to a website called Braver Angels, which provides a method for having 1:1 conversations with someone who is different from you with the aim of creating mutual understanding. One of the conversation guides is for Red/Blue conversations. [1:1 Conversations - Braver Angels](#)
- The ELCA has a series of social statements on a variety of challenging topics. The very first social statement written is [Church in Society - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America \(elca.org\)](#)
- A new draft social statement is available for review and comment until September 30, 2024. [Civic Life and Faith - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America \(elca.org\)](#) The draft policy states, "The ELCA understanding of civic life and faith is at odds with Christian nationalism because the latter seeks to fuse the exercise of political authority with a selected set of supposed 'Christian' ideals. It also asserts that Christianity should be a privileged religion in the United States. Such core beliefs represent a political ideology of religious nationalism, whether explicitly acknowledged or not. In its hardline strains, only white, U.S.-born, Christian believers are considered genuine U.S. citizens. Christian nationalists pledge allegiance to their version of the United States, first making the U.S. into an idol and seeing God's plan in U.S. society as including only those whose religious beliefs fuse with a certain view of that society.



## Immigration/Race Justice Group (I/RJG)

**Special Guest:** Vanessa Guttierrez, Deputy Director, NW Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) brought us up to date on NWIRP activities and needs. They are extensive and continuing to grow due to current immigration issues. Of significant concern is the prospect of the former president being elected again.

- Our current CVB account was reviewed. Advent Lutheran, Spokane Valley, has granted us \$450 from their 2024 endowment distribution.
- One of our members was able to attend Sarah Augustine's all day workshop on "The Doctrine of Discovery", March 2, at the Sunnyslope Lutheran Church.
- The Leavenworth Chamber's Recreational Ambassadors weekends of volunteering will be coordinated this year by one of our members and we will hopefully participate again to receive \$2,000.
- A working single mom with three children (two in the AVID program) who became naturalized recently through our citizenship classes, will be seeking to take driver's education soon and to somehow somehow purchase a car. We will help her register for driver's ed classes (\$550) and to purchase necessary auto insurance. We will seek a Faith Lutheran Endowment grant to assist her.
- Cascade High School AVID Program: Our initial work with the students included Starbucks coffee and pastries. Since that time in January, several of us have tutored students with their scholarship applications. Malia, the director, will inform us of future needs.
- The Migrant Graduation Program director is a member of our group and has established a weekly "Writing Center" in the CSHS library to help students with their writing assignments and projects. Volunteers for this are welcome. She has also asked for a "lunch buddy" for a young 6<sup>th</sup> grader who needs nurturing. Schedules will be sent.
- Another of our members who serves as a nurse in our MEND Free Clinic, will be watching for special immigrant clients who may need additional financial assistance.
- We have not had any recent updates on the family whose husband was comatose in Harborview Hospital for a considerable number of weeks. We helped with \$1,200 for medical financial assistance. Follow up calls will be made.
- Beth Eichler, an immigration lawyer and Director of the Wenatchee NWIRP office, hopes to visit with our group in the next months.
- Israel Gonzalez's WA Immigrant Solidarity Network's (WAISN) Rapid Response Organizer has asked if our I/RJG would continue being a community Rapid Response Team in the event of a local Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raid. We will and will need to revise our Team responsibilities. Ongoing RR meetings/trainings are the last Wednesdays of the month, the next being March 27, 6-7:30 p.m. on Zoom. He will also be visiting Chelan on April 11 and perhaps can meet with our group.
- Next meeting: Wednesday, April 10, 6:00 p.m.







## Fledging Creation Care Group Forms in Northwest Intermountain Synod

In 2015, the Faith Lutheran Earth Stewardship Group brought a resolution to synod assembly entitled “Eco-Reformation in the Context of EWAID Synod.” The resolution called for the synod to enact a 2013 Churchwide action urging all expressions of the church to “adopt and advocate for policies that reduce energy use and with it our dependence on fossil fuels, as an expression of this church’s commitment to address climate change and to care for God’s creation” and “to re-examine lifestyles and environmental footprints as they relate to the climate crisis and to improve their stewardship of energy resources and promote care for God’s creation;” and to become “even more faithfully a denomination that embraces and practices creation care throughout its life and mission.”

I was the one that presented the resolution (along with a memorial to churchwide and a workshop) at the synod assembly. I was worried about resistance but the theme of that assembly was on WATER. Living waters and rivers and the goodness of creation. Pastors Susan Briehl and Ben Stuart essentially invoked the presence of the Holy Spirit into our midst so when I stood to talk, my job became very easy. The resolution passed almost unanimously. But then what.

The problem with synod resolutions is that SOMEONE has to implement them! Helga Jansons was then our Director of Evangelical Mission. She visited our group at Faith Lutheran to pick our brains and recruited me to serve on synod council. Several times I put out a plea to synod council for volunteers to help or to please give me names of people who might be interested. No one stepped up! Even as I was elected vice president of the synod a year ago, I thought, maybe SOMETHING can happen during my new term. I hadn’t completely given up hope.

Last Fall, I received two emails in one week. One was forwarded by Phil Misner, Assistant to the Bishop. Keith Hammer, a retired pastor in Boise, was asking whether our synod had any kind of creation care committee. A day later, I received an email from Pastor Peg Harvey-Marose (Grace Lutheran in Lewiston, Idaho) with a cc to Katrina Martich, a deaconess living in Spokane. Both were wondering the same thing as Keith. Well. Was I ever excited! “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” It appears the Holy Spirit finally made her move. It may have helped that Barbara Rossing was the keynote preacher at the 2023 synod assembly.

We have been meeting by Zoom since last fall and are still discerning what to call ourselves, how to best get started, etc. But a few others have now joined us and at least five people in our group have coaching credentials for creation care! How about that?

If you are interested in participating, our next meeting is April 18 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. You can either reach out to me or to Katrina Martich who heads up our group. Her email is [contact@katrinamartich.com](mailto:contact@katrinamartich.com)

Lisa Therrell  
[merrymulesears@msn.com](mailto:merrymulesears@msn.com)

## The History Corner by Danny Thomassen



What is a Lutheran today? When we consider the span of 500 years from the Founding Father Dr. Martin Luther (PhD) it is easy to make definitive distinctions. During the first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century there were no organized Lutherans. This came 35 years after

Luther's death (1546 A.D.) with the proclamation of Concordat in 1580 A.D. at Dresden, Germany, the capital of Saxony by German Elector Augustus.

Today the United States has three major Lutheran Church organizations: ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), LCMS (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod) and WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod). However there are a variety of over 40 Lutheran inter-connective denominations within North America. They all go back to the basic root concepts of Martin Luther with some diversity apart from each other. For God so loved His Creation that we received the gift of free will and choice which gives us opportunities for inclusive tolerance regarding human relationships within our social communities.

Consider Luther's brethren of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and our Lutheran churches today. "Ways of life" have evolved and changed societies. Luther had the Gutenberg moveable-type printing press, invented in Germany (1436 A.D.), to create his writings. Today we have electronic high-tech social media community network platforms. Luther was the most prolific author in all of Europe but he could not come close to the expansiveness of human communications today.

The sixteenth century was a time of rapid transformation and brave exploration. "New Worlds" were being discovered outside of Europe. The literacy rate of the general population increased from about 12% to 33%. Luther's massive and numerous publications infused the populations of Germany *in their own German language*. People developed a greater interest in reading and learning as Western civilization was gravitating from the late medieval period into the Enlightenment. Luther certainly fueled this initial enlightened movement. Intellectual communities began to adopt forms of literary etiquette in the late 17<sup>th</sup> Century and exploded during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. This transformation fostered written communications among scholarly, political and literary elites that transcended national boundaries corresponding with each other over great distances. Remember John Lennon's song: Imagine "*no countries, nothing to kill or die for, living in peace*"? These men and women of the *metaphysical* "Republic of Letters" endorsed and embodied this concept. They labeled themselves *Citizens of the Universe* emphasizing unitary dimensions that ignored worldly geographical, secular and denominational borders and barriers with tolerance committed to the common good of humanity.

As a pastor, Martin employed written communications frequently using the Holy Scriptures with abundant inventiveness to his family, friends and colleagues, and with authority to the power infrastructures of his time. He encouraged compassionate humanitarian outcomes or summarily condemn unacceptable behavior. His *words became solid currency* during his lifetime and laid the foundations for evolving principals of "Lutheranism" throughout Germany then and beyond for us today.



**There was Thanksgiving,  
Abundance, Gratitude and Joy.....**

Saint Patrick's Day 2024 (Sunday March 17) was a time to give God thanks for the vision and generosity of the gathered people of Faith Lutheran through the *Faith Moving Forward* campaign.

**President Karl Kranz led the time of thanksgiving with the following words:**

*O God, you have promised through your Son to be with your Church forever. We give thanks for the signs of your constant presence in our congregation. We also give you thanks for those who have dedicated themselves to strengthening this community of believers through the commitments of these gifts and pledges that are brought before you today. Increase in us the spirit of faith and love, knit us together in the communion of saints, and make our fellowship an example to all believers and to all nations.*

**And the congregation responded:**

*Almighty God, all that we are and all that we possess is from your loving hand. Give us grace that we may honor you by offering with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.*



**FAITH MOVING FORWARD PLEDGES TO DATE = \$420K !**

Special thanks to Dave & LeAnn Haven, Don Haven, Nadine Sanders and Amy & Reed Carlson for incredible musical leadership with Irish traditions both in worship and community sing along during coffee hour





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### **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.

### **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 is a Reconciling In Christ (RIC) congregation.**

We provide a safe and healing environment where people of any race, sexual orientation, gender identity, social or economic status can be nourished in their journey of faith.

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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 April 26 for the May issue.





