



Life of Faith

AUGUST 2024

224 Benton St. (P.O. Box 418) 509 548 7010

faithlutheran@ficleavenworth.com

www.ficleavenworth.com

Pastor Eva Jensen Pastor@ficleavenworth.com

From our president...

CHANGE! Small change, climate change, candidate change, keep the change – it is pervasive and we are inundated with it. Charles Darwin may have meant ‘Survival of the most Adaptable’ rather than ‘of the Fittest’. Change can happen to us, or we can direct and create it. July was a fallow month, we melted into Summer, postponed the monthly Council meeting, planted a new water heater in the Fellowship Hall, and grew ideas quietly.

Heidi Krumland traveled, reflected and read *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held. I also want to look at this book, because guided change is the best change. To guide change it is best to know where you want to go. Many older members at Faith recall clearly where we have been and how we developed the unique church that we now enjoy. Pastor Eva and I have published 2 goals for this next year, they are just a beginning. We would like to stop losing members at our church, and we want to refresh the directory in 2025. A general hope is to bring more youth to our congregation. The Synod conference to which Pastor Eva and I went addressed financial changes in ELCA churches as the giving declines across America and strategies to use the assets creatively that each church has to mitigate that financial pressure. We hope to stop worrying about the budget.

Think about change, pray about change, discuss change, enable and enact change. We, the Council, are listening and available. Bring us your ideas. Let’s brainstorm, plant mental mustard seeds, have Faith, watch new ideas grow into reality.



We are so fortunate and blessed—we have property, parking, a lovely worship space, our Pastor, a Parsonage, an affordable rental, a community gathering area in the Fellowship Hall and dedicated members at Faith. We have done so many things right! I ask you all, what shall we do next?

In Faith, at Faith, with Faith,

Karl Kranz



Photos by Dawn Kranz

From Pastor Eva

Coffee Hour and Conversation at Church

Behold, how good and pleasant it is to gather as kindred in unity. For there God has commanded the blessing: life forevermore. Psalm 133

I love moving from worship to “coffee and conversation” and that Faith Lutheran Church creates at least one hour every Sunday for this communion of saints to renew relationships, create new relationships, and support one another.

I love visiting with you – members, friends, and visitors where we welcome one another into a blessing space where we can unload the highs and lows of life, sit together in grace, pause for the renewal of our lives and community.

Hospitality host volunteers set a varied and delightful table of snacks and treats to accompany our beverage of choice (there is usually something in addition to coffee!). We enjoy the surprises and celebrate the ordinary Oreo cookies. We relax and laugh, listen and care.



Fellowship and hospitality are ingrained into church cultures of vitality. In the letter to the Hebrews, written to an early Christian community of faith, the author wrote: ***...let us***

consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another
Hebrews 10: 23-24

We seek space for community, deeper connection and comfort with companions in faith, doubt, struggle and joy. Historically, friendship and belonging have been strong motivators for joining church. As a young person, church was a place where I developed friendships with peers who wanted to have fun and also safely share together some of our questions, uncertainties, and



struggles. In church, we were supported by caring and thoughtful adults – even young adults – who created safe and stimulating ways for us to share and learn together about the things that really mattered in our lives. These ways of communing as companions shaped my life and identity.

Coffee hour and conversation time at church continues to be formative and encouraging for me. I wonder what you seek and what is your experience? Over time, relationships develop and conversations deepen. I like learning from one another, listening and sharing questions and different perspectives on matters on our hearts and minds.

In these times, there are so many places where we can gather for companionship. What is it that distinguishes faith communities? What might we do differently to make our coffee time a visible and openly inviting time of meaningful connection for people who may not come to worship, but seek meaningful companionship? I wonder what we would learn if we were joined by more people for coffee and conversation. How might we see God anew in such communion?

As I go now for the month of August, I will miss you, think of you and hold you in prayer. My call is 5/6ths time, which means I have two months of unpaid leave every year. This coming month of August is my first of two months of unpaid leave this year. I look forward to seeing you in September.

God’s grace and peace be with you,

Pastor Eva



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

August 4: Pastor Barbara Rossing
August 11: Pastor Barbara Rossing presiding, Baird Linke preaching
August 18: TBA
August 25: Pastor Dave Haven



BOOK GROUP: Each Tuesday, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.
Anyone interested in joining the group, contact Margaret Neighbors
(509) 387-0883.

SAIL: (Staying Active and Independent for Life) Tuesday and Thursdays, 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 information.

KNITTING AND CRAFTS: August 7, 21, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

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

CHURCH COUNCIL: August 15, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

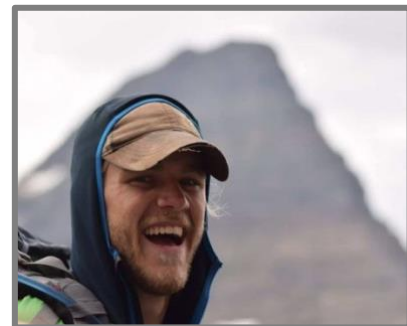
IMMIGRATION/RACE AND JUSTICE GROUP: August 21, 6:00 p.m.

EARTH STEWARDSHIP GROUP: August 20, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

- August 6, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary **LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF** (see pg.4)
- August 9, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall, **POTLUCK AND PRESENTATION ON EARTH'S CLIMATE CRISIS** (see pg. 4)
- August 11, **LUTHERANS RESTORING CREATION** by Baird Linke after worship (see below)
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Adult Forum after church August 11....

Baird Linke will lead an information forum after worship on “Lutherans Restoring Creation.” Baird graduated from Wartburg Theological Seminary and is currently working as chaplain at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp in Montana. He serves on the board of Lutherans Restoring Creation, directs the ELCA’s Compelling Preaching Initiative and helps congregations and synods on caring for creation. His bio says “when he isn’t working or studying he can be found running, mountain biking, and skiing with his dog Kintla.”



Lutherans Restoring Creation is a grassroots movement promoting care for creation in the ELCA. We accomplish this by cultivating a community of dedicated stewards of earth and neighbor who proclaim God’s promise of hope and healing for all.

Special potluck and presentation on *Earth's Climate Crisis*...



There will be a potluck dinner and informal presentation by Jim Martin-Schramm, primary author of the ELCA's recent social message, *Earth's Climate Crisis*. He is an Emeritus Professor of Religion at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa and John and Mary Schramm's son-in-law. In "retirement" Jim has been working as a Policy Analyst for the Clean Energy Districts of Iowa. He is also a member of the "Just Transition" team of Lutheran's Restoring Creation, which has been exploring ways the ELCA can achieve its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030.

All are invited!
Friday, August 9 6:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall



Lutheran World Relief visitor to Faith Lutheran Church

You are invited to come and learn more about Lutheran World Relief on Tuesday, August 6, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Margaret Neighbors will host this meeting with Rev. Lisa Kipp who is one of the pastors on the staff of Lutheran World Relief. It will be a wonderful way to learn more about what happens to all those quilts that Faith Lutheran quilters make and that we bless as a congregation – learn of the ways that the love of Faith Lutheran is reaching out to our neighbors around the world through LWR. Come to learn more about Lutheran World Relief.

REFLECTIONS AFTER ONE YEAR...



Bishop Meggan Manlove began her term as bishop of the Northwest Intermountain Synod (NWIMS) of the ELCA on July 1, 2024

A synod is still a hard thing to wrap arms or words around. Who are we? What do we do? What is our role? When I get together with colleagues from other denominations we often laugh about this challenge—what is a middle judicatory (the organization between the local and national)? And, as I've written before, we all are the synod. A few of us make up the synod staff. Our governance happens through synod assemblies and synod council meetings.

In the NWIMS, I find it helpful to begin with what it means to be Lutheran in our specific part of the world and in this time....read more from Bp. Manlove at <https://nwimsynod.org/blog/2024630/reflectio ns-after-one-year>

CHURCH COUNCIL July 2024



Treasurer's Report:

- Giving continues to be down for operational budget. June was \$3200 below usual giving. Our capital campaign consultants through Abundant Congregations say this is typical after a capital campaign and should rebound over time. The Endowment Fund is fine, the Property Account is maintaining over \$50,000 to keep higher interest, Capital Campaign money is trickling in, rents from Benton and Tumwater Houses are coming in.
- The bridge loan for the capital campaign is half paid off.
- The Little Pantry has a deficit of \$500. The Community Foundation fund from Schramm's will cover for now but a long term plan needs to be made. Ideas discussed include 1) partner with MEND, 2) grants, 3) more food donations given, 4) Oktober Fest Ambassador money could be designated or possibly, 5) council benevolence.
- Property Tax Exemption rules for the parsonage are tightening. The state needs a signed lease agreement, signed call letter and signed compensation package. Greg working on this.
- Church Mutual Insurance is cancelling & rewriting all policies as of September. The amount last year was \$3200. Now have four buildings to insure so the amount is expected to increase.
- There was discussion about repurposing the church buildings for income stream via concerts or weddings. Possible tax liability would need to be researched.

Pastors Report: via Karl in Eva's absence

- Pastor Eva will be back from being with her Mom in Wyoming to preside on July 21. Barbara Rossing covered July 7 and will preside/preach on July 14.
- Eva will be gone from July 31 through Labor Day weekend and will attend to scheduling the supply pastors for the time she is gone. A plan needs to be made for pastoral care. In August, Pastor Baird Linke is interested in helping out while awaiting a call.
- A fall congregational retreat was discussed. Should it be at the Guild or church picnic to talk future? What do we want to look like in 5 years?

Property Committee:

- Need to install new water heater and get inspected by the insurance company.
- Need to dig hole for sump pump
- Repair of sewer project disruption is proceeding....grass will be planted in the fall. Need comprehensive landscape plan. Who? Possibly Earth Stewardship to restore our own backyard with Natives? No grass?
- Working on irrigation

Worship Committee:

- We will meet in late July to plan the third of three Pentecost bulletin formats.
- Outdoor worship will be second and third Sundays of the month weather permitting and inside for first and fourth.

Endowment Committee:

- The committee requested permission to move the lowest yield Thrivent account into the ELCA Fund to generate more income. Granted.

Parsonage Project Committee:

- Pastor Eva is 'in' and happy to be there. She thanks everyone for their hard work.

Old Business

- Earth Stewardship: It has been dormant but ideas continue to swirl. The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 23 at 6:30 PM.

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- Annual Pastoral Eval: Pete, Karl & Pastor Eva took this on. Long discussion on visitation and how to define more clearly the Pastor's role. What is expected? Goals for this coming year: 1) Prevent the decline of membership (different than increase membership! But how do we do that? Seek a different way of looking at 'church'?); 2) Work on a new directory, going through the old one and contacting folks. What else in 2025? How does the contract work? More definition needed. Can we afford to have a 5/6-time pastor with this much experience? Possibility of decreasing time?
- Post-Purchase Event: We are planning an informational meeting for the Congregation about church finances post purchase of the Tumwater Parsonage. This is now scheduled for Sunday, September 29 after church.
- Echo Article. Get word out about us, how??? Social Media?
- Landscape Plan needed – see Earth Stewardship

New Business

- Re-new Retreat. Date yet to be determined for congregational planning retreat
- Re-member Sunday this fall? When? September 8? Thought to be good idea. Like history night done by the call committee, celebrate us by inviting old members back (ex. Leverenzes, Wincklemans, George & Mary, Mary Carol,...) Make it an event.
- Oktoberfest Ambassadors: we will call for volunteers to be ambassadors again at the downtown celebration in the Fall on Oct 4/5 & 18/19.
- WiFi extender for outdoor service – explore possibilities
- Methodist invitation to join them in organizing community dinners. Decline, for now.

Next Council Meeting: August 15 at 6:00 p.m., with Zoom option



Living Lutheran is a source for news, reflections and stories from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and its local and global companions. It covers religious news and social issues, congregational life, global and domestic mission, family matters, spiritual practices and resources, and more. Subscriptions to Living Lutheran magazine are available for free at [Sign up for our e-digest – Living Lutheran](#). You can manage what types of stories you wish to receive and the frequency.

WE ARE ALSO CITIZENS

The recent issue of Living Lutheran features a timely message from our presiding bishop Elizabeth Eaten about political discourse, our role in civic life and encouragement to vote. Read entire article here:

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2024/06/we-are-also-citizens/>

Dear church, our citizenship is ultimately in heaven. But we are also citizens of this country—this flawed, fractious, unequal, imperfect union. In U.S. political history, people have yearned and given their lives for what they had hoped for—democratic life for the sake of the flourishing of all. One of the ways we serve our neighbor is to participate in civic life. Can we see Election Day as a unifying event when the whole country goes to the polls?

Elizabeth Eaten



Earth Stewardship Group

- **EcoFaith Action Network:** Received an update from Eva, Barbara and Lisa on their work with the Northwest Intermountain Synod. Eva will facilitate their retreat next week with a goal of developing a 2-year plan on the synod level. We are exploring ways to partner with their efforts.
- **Advocacy:** Earth Ministry and Faith Action Network are against 2117, the Ballot Initiative to repeal Washington's Climate Commitment Act law. If 2117 passes, it would roll back protections for our air, water, forests, farmlands, jobs and transportation systems. It would strip away billions of dollars in investments in community priorities in every county in our state, like air quality, transportation and transit service, fish habitat and preventing wildfires – and shift the burden of paying for the impacts of pollution on communities and families. Vote no.
- **Forums:** Baird Linke , August 11 after church on *Lutherans Restoring Creation* and Jim Martin-Schramm, August 9 potluck on *Earth's Climate Crisis*.
- **Landscape Planning for Church** – Church Council asked the Earth Stewardship Group to take on responsibility for planning landscape improvements for the Church grounds. A Landscape Planning Committee is forming, led by Reed Carlson. Greg Harris will participate and others from the congregation are invited too. Factors t include: water reduction, future maintenance, beautification, function (such as outdoor worship seating out front), use of native plants and pollinators, addition of trees, fire wise safety and community input.
- **Progressive Garden Tour:** A local progressive garden tour is planned for September 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Carpooling from the church will be encouraged. Watch for more information.
- **Bike Racks:** A second bike rack was installed at the church by Karl Krantz! Karl has reached out to contacts with the City to enquire about bike rack installations planned for Front Street and elsewhere in Leavenworth.
- **Land Acknowledgement:** We discussed again the desire to develop a land acknowledgement that can be posted to our website and used at congregational meetings and perhaps a shorter tagline version that can be included other places.
- **Disappearing Glaciers Project for Leavenworth Area:** This project was discussed again with much enthusiasm and many ideas were shared. More to come on this.
- **Sponsoring Earth Stewardship themed Movie/Documentaries:** *Fish Wars* was suggested as a powerful documentary to consider making available to the entire Leavenworth community. Also *False Promises* about the Wenatchee River and the Colville Tribe and *Regenerating Life* to show at church sometime this winter.
- **Devotional Series *Climate +Faith: How We Can Help Meet the Greatest Challenge in Human History*:** Still considering for fall/winter.



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- **New Business:**
 - **Plastics:** The issue of plastics in our environment was discussed and many ideas to reduce their use were presented. Plans are underway to host a congregational discussion on recycling after church sometime.
 - **Renaming of Peaks:** Barbara brought up a potential future project for our group. It would be to sponsor the renaming of several peaks above the Twin Lakes area which are currently named for enslavers and others with questionable backgrounds. This will be discussed again at a future meeting.
 - **Leavenworth Improvement for Everyone (LIFE).** Leavenworth is launching a new initiative which intends to gather input from local residents on the imagined future of the town. This will be executed through a series of community meetings in September and October. Our group plans to have representation at these meetings to provide input regarding bike racks, sustainability and earth care.
- **Next Meeting Date:** August 20 at 6:00 PM at Fellowship Hall.



FLC has a new water heater!

Thank you Karl Kranz, Greg Harris and Greg Steeber for installing and thanks to Endowment Committee for funding.





Faith Journeys is a booklet of reflections written by people of Faith Lutheran as part of our *Faith Moving Forward* Capital Fund Campaign. One of these faith stories is shared each month in the newsletter. This month we hear from John Schramm

Awe and Wonder

I think my spirituality has lacked a vital dimension. I was raised with the understanding that the two important things for a true faith were to believe correctly and behave correctly. The behavior should include going to church and praying. This agenda is important but misses a vital dimension: a sense of awe and wonder. I learned the commandments, but I didn't "consider the lilies of the field."

This lack became clearer when our Book Study Group read a book by Abraham Heschel, *Thunder in the Soul*. These quotes caught my attention: "We tend to convert mysteries into dogmas and ideas into a multitude of words. Knowledge is fostered by curiosity; wisdom is fostered by awe. Music, poetry, and religion—they all initiate the soul's encounter with an aspect of reality for which reason has no concept and language no names." In another section, Heschel speaks about the nature of God: "God is not a point at the horizon of the mind but is like the air that surrounds one and by which one lives. God is not a thing, but a happening." Perhaps to experience that "happening" requires a sense of awe and wonder. Kurt Vonnegut is much more direct: "I needed only one reason to believe there is a God: Music." This awe and wonder come not just when viewing a beautiful sunset, the first glimpse of the Grand Canyon, or the snow-capped Himalayas. It also comes in finding the beauty in the very ordinary. Awe means one is able to marvel at the regeneration of our bodies, the kindness of a neighbor and the love of a spouse.

Awe and wonder will bring two characteristics to anyone who exercises them: gratitude and humility. Can there be anything more appropriate for a faithful life?

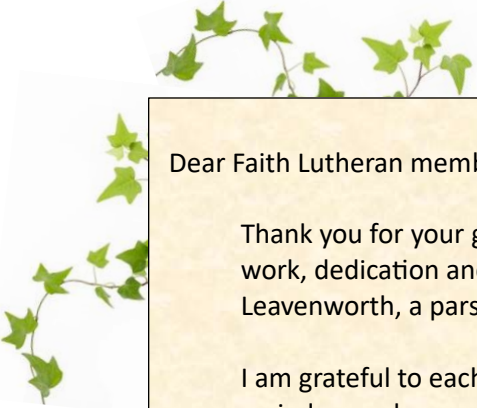
A bit of Awe and Wonder at Faith Lutheran.....

On Saturday afternoon, June 29, Faith Lutheran joined the Salish Sea Early Music Festival to sponsor a program featuring Faythe Vollrath on harpsichord and Jeffrey Cohan on baroque flute. The program was mostly a Johann Sebastian Bach extravaganza but also included works by Johan Adam Reincken whose music Bach much admired.



FAYTHE VOLLRATH is actively heard as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States. She has been hailed by the Wall Street Journal for her "subtly varied tempo and rhythm that sounds like breathing" and is enamored with the contrast of new music written for historic instruments.

According to the New York Times, JEFFREY COHAN can "play several superstar flutists one might name under the table". He has performed throughout Europe, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and for the USIA Arts America Program in the South Pacific, South America, Turkey and Portugal.



Dear Faith Lutheran members and friends, companions in faith and hope,

Thank you for your generosity, thoughtfulness, and caring. Thank you for your hard work, dedication and commitment to the huge project of creating a home for me in Leavenworth, a parsonage for your pastor!

I am grateful to each and every one of you who contributed from near and far in varied ways, large and small, to make this dream a reality. Together in Faith you made this happen!

Your donations of furniture and household items – from pots and pans to dishes, hand towels, shower curtains, and sheets; to mugs, glasses, and an electric hot-pot to support the essential stimulation and comfort of brewed coffee, tea and cocoa! I cannot name every item, but your generosity and attentiveness to design taste enriches the beauty and design of the kitchen – truly a gem in the house!

Donated furniture: an office desk, kitchen island, refinished cherrywood dining room table and six chairs, living room recliner, teak bookshelf, two beds with excellent mattresses that support good and necessary sleep. A handmade dresser, end table cabinet stand, small sofa table, nightstand light, entryway bench and patio furniture provide tasteful finishing pieces of function and décor.

The organizing leadership of a core team – Karl and Dawn Kranz, Greg and Mary Steeber and Greg Harris – was outstanding, significant and substantial in every way: from planning, to fundraising, to financing and closing the purchase. And then moving to designing upgrades, choosing subcontractors and materials and taking on the hard work: scrubbing and cleaning walls, cupboards and tubs; painting the vaulted ceiling, walls and closets (thank you for letting me choose the paint colors); cleaning and polishing woodwork and doors, installing a new laminate floor, under-counter wiring (by Dan Holm), new smoke detectors and home safety alarms. How did you do so much careful work in one month? You created beauty! Thank you!

The Pastor's Office in the house is furnished with a beautiful Danish Design teak desk that includes space for storage of all office items that support my work and desk-top space for writing, organizing and planning. In close proximity is a bookcase, file cabinet and printer. Reference books, files and resources are close at hand and accessible. I enjoy working in the gold room of inspiration and good order.

I am now settled in the parsonage. It is a beautiful home and wonderful place to live, enjoy life, and work well. The yard and views support me in the beauty of this land and the creatures who live here. The attached garage provides shelter from the elements. The quiet street is populated with good neighbors!

Thank you. It means so much to me. You have made a very positive difference in my life. This home is a blessing of grace that nourishes me – body and soul.

Pastor Eva



Don't forget Gaza

Nearly 39,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since October 7, 2023. Most of the population are reported to have fled their homes and those who remain are on the brink of famine. People in Gaza are facing desperation as the conflict between Israel and Hamas continues.

ELCA Pastor Khader Khalilia is one of the few Palestinian Christian faith leaders in the United States. He talks to *The World's* host, Marco Werman, about what it's been like to lead a church in the US, especially during the past nine months of war in Gaza. Read the interview here: <https://theworld.org/stories/2024/07/18/our-community-is-terrified-a-faith-leader-talks-about-what-it-means-to-be-a-palestinian-christian-in-the-us>



Read stories here from the ground at Augusta Victoria Hospital serving patients from Gaza.....<https://lutheranworld.org/news/patients-gaza-fear-their-families>



Faith Lutheran member Margaret Neighbors is one of four local individuals participating in Elder Speak, a program of the Ripple Foundation that brings together elders to discuss meaningful lessons they have learned. They'll be sharing their wisdom with the public on Sept. 8 at Snowy Owl Theater at Sleeping Lady and on Nov. 3 at the Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center. Read Margaret's story here:

https://www.wenatcheeworld.com/news/elder-speak-neighbors-has-learned-to-roll-with-lifes-punches/article_7afa59be-45f0-11ef-9ca9-97183a22b21f.html





Stories of Brushy Chapel and Yeager Union Church by Pastor Dan Holm....

Right out of seminary I was called to serve a small rural parish in central Missouri. Besides two Sunday morning services I would go down to the upper end of the Lake of the Ozarks to conduct a Sunday evening meeting at either Brushy Chapel or Yeager Union Church.

It was the first worship service at Brushy Chapel after being unused all winter. I did opening prayer and announced the hymn. As Ruth began to play the piano, I noticed people looking at the floor and one lady had tucked her legs up on the pew. Mice were running out of the piano. A mama covered with her babies clinging to her ran past my feet.

Ruth continued playing and we continued singing, myself a bit nervously. If ever you have had a mouse run up in your pant leg you would understand my concern. It is quite a dance to get rid of one with their sharp little claws. They were looking for places to hide.

Ruth suddenly stopped playing. She shouted to her husband, "Buck, get that snake. I don't mind these mice running around, but that snake must go". Sure enough, here comes a small black snake slithering along the front wall towards me and the piano intent on getting mice.

Buck grabs a broom and sweeps the snake down the aisle and out the door. Ruth starts playing again and we resume singing but not for long. The snake returns heading up the main aisle intent on catching lunch. Again, Ruth stops playing. Buck again sweeps the snake down the aisle and out the door. This time we hear some stomping going on outside. Then we resumed the meeting without the snake.

The people of Brushy Chapel had united with those at Yeager Union Church for worship. When the Baptists left to build their own church there were only five to fifteen people attending. Most were retired people living by the Lake of the Ozarks. They told me they were cramming for their finals.

Finances were simple. A basket was passed and I was given half. Knowing how many were there was easy. Everybody put in a dollar. If after services I was given \$5.00 it meant we had 10 people.

I was the only Lutheran. We began with hymn selection from an old Tabernacle hymnal. I would say what I wanted us to talk about and they would decide what to sing. There was a Bible study or sometimes I would use my sermon. If there was a question, they would interrupt and ask. We had some lively times.

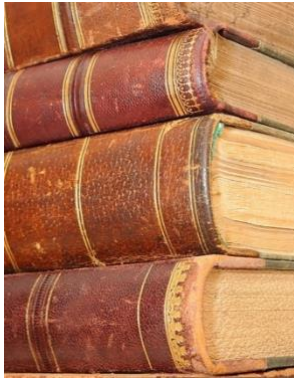
Yeager Union Church had modernized from a wood stove to a gas heater which was placed squarely up front with no space for an altar. Piano on one side, heater in middle, lectern on other side filled the front. If you wanted to keep warm you better not sit in the back row. Yeager was small, only five rows of short pews.

On one warm spring afternoon, I conducted a wedding. With all the bridesmaids, groomsmen and the couple, I was backed up against the heater. It decided to come on shortly after the ceremony started and fry my back side. It certainly speeded up that wedding.

I have good memories of Yeager and Brushy. They were a caring group looking out for each other and their neighbors. I think they had, long before I met them, already passed their finals. In fact, with Christ there are no finals. We have no tests to pass. Our desire to help and care for each other comes as a result of our faith, not as a requirement for eternal life.

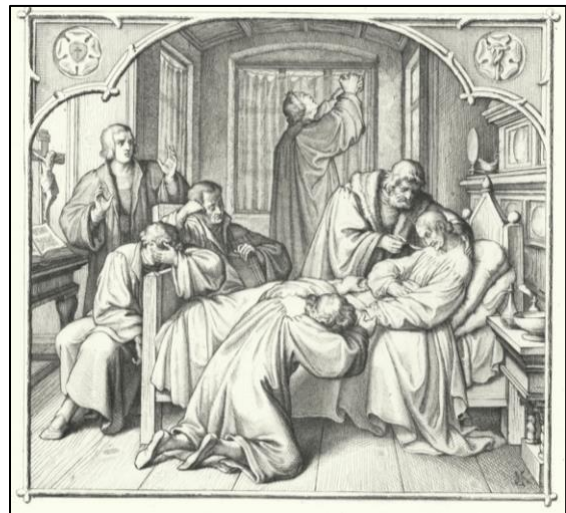
Yeager Union Church and Brushy Chapel remind me "We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord." And "They will know we are Christians by our Love.

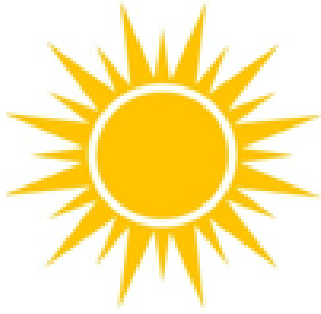
The History Corner: by Danny Thomassen



Over the last seven months the History Corner has shared narratives regarding Martin Luther's life. This will be the last concluding article. History has taught us that Luther was a great reformer during the sixteenth century and had remarkable influence on a new direction for Christian understanding of our relationships with God. This world-shaking figure defied the papacy in Rome and the greatest political machine of the times, the Holy Roman Empire. Western civilization was gravitating from the Late Medieval period into the new Enlightenment with the Reformation leading the way in teaching, worship, organization and life within the Church. Initially, Luther did not concern himself about Rome and the papacy. He was a Catholic priest and did not give much thought about Emperor Charles V. He was not seeking political influence. The so-called "Reformation" started in Wittenburg, Germany because Luther was concerned about his own parishioners who were being deceived by the Roman Catholic Church with the purchase of *Letters of Indulgence* in return for salvation of their souls. Strip away the unwanted fame and controversial life events of Luther and you see the truth; Martin was simply a pastor, a teacher, and shepherd of souls who was grounded in the Holy Scriptures ministering to his flock. His pastoral concerns are prominently documented in his church sermons, university lectures and commentaries on the Books of the Bible. We confess: "I am a sinner" rather than: "I have committed a sin". We do not truly know what God's will is or is not; our true knowledge of God can only be found through Christ. Our fellowship with God is broken by sin; God restores this fellowship through Christ graciously taking upon himself human sin to reconcile the relationship, with grace offering pardon, forgiveness, and eternal life. Works on earth does not engender eternal salvation; God only ask that we **practice our faith** and exercise love (*kindness*) that comes through faith. Luther wrote: "Our worthiness before God is out of pure grace through faith". We must remember that Luther's theology throughout his lifetime was employed by what he had learned in the Augustine monastery at Erfurt, Germany and his priesthood/teaching in Wittenburg before history labeled him a Reformer.

In January 1546 at age 63, in the dead of winter, Martin made the 70 mile journey in an open two-wheel cart pulled by oxen from Wittenburg to the place of his birth Eisleben. He would function as a mediator to reconcile copper mine ownership disputes with quarreling Counts of Mansfeld. The negotiations were long (*three weeks*), painful (*emotional & disruptive*) and eventually successful; the Noblemen were reconciled. Shortly after the mine disputes were settled, Martin Luther would die in the village of his birth ending a rich lifetime of pastoral activity. Luther had dedicated himself to serving others based on his love and faith in God. Justus Jonas, a pastor at Halle, Germany and Luther's deathbed comforter documented the event with a written detailed account. Luther was lucid and conscious with interval bouts of severe chest pain confessing his sins and affirming his faith in Christ. Luther commented: "Death is the great equalizer, the final release and liberation from worldly sin and a return to Christ in which we were joined by our Baptism".





Summertime at Faith Lutheran...



Kate Farrer working on landscaping



Outdoor Worship



New Email Addresses

New email addresses have been established for the Pastor, President, and Treasurer of Faith Lutheran Church. Effective June 16th, please use the following addresses for all church-related correspondence. *These new addresses ensure a clear separation from personal emails.*



Pastor: Pastor@ficleavenworth.com
President: President@ficleavenworth.com
Treasurer: Treasurer@ficleavenworth.com



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 by August 23 for the September issue.

