



Life of Faith

DECEMBER 2024

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Crossed Wires

Here is a bedtime story. My spouse and I luxuriate in the winter in the heat of an electric mattress warmer. We turn it on before bed with the dual controls set to 6 and the bed is perfect when we jump in. Last winter the device stopped working well. My side was often too hot or too cold, as was hers. No amount of adjusting the controls seemed to help, indeed, disturbing the heat setting on my bedside control seemed to make it worse.

We finally stripped the bed to remove the defective product, and found to our amazement and laughter that his heat control had been routed to her side of the bed and her control to his! As long as we both left the controls at 6, no issue. But, if I got hot, I turned my control down. Shortly thereafter, my side would get Hotter, no matter what I did. Of course you see, I would turn down my bed control, thus cooling my spouse, who would turn her control up thus broiling me.

Our best efforts in life can at times have crossed wires and unanticipated results, which leads me to a more serious discussion.

I have been reflecting this week on the many positive changes that have been brought to Faith by our Pastor Eva. Many new members grace our congregation, and we share new music. I have a greater awareness of our role in the Synod and the greater church community and how we support each other. The liturgies are fresh with new clarity, and our afflicted members have been visited and blessed. Pastor Eva took time to think, analyze, and put to paper her feelings and observations about her time with us at Faith Lutheran. We, the Council, have listened, and reviewed this letter addressed to the Council and the congregation. With much thought and discussion, we have assembled a plan outlining tasks that the Council will approach as a template for improvement for our congregation. We will send both the Pastor's letter and the Council's response out to the congregation following this newsletter.

Some wires were crossed! What appeared to be transparent helpful discussions were not, in the end. We *should have* tackled the friction points sooner when they were small, *could have* had many more conversations together, which *would have* perhaps at least eased the pain of separation. In November, I feel that the Pastor and the Council finally straightened out the lines of communication together. We will all benefit from these mutual efforts.

Thanks be to God for Pastor Eva's time with us and her many contributions to building a better Faith Community in which we worship.

God's Peace,
Karl Kranz
President, Faith Lutheran Council



DECEMBER WORSHIP AND EVENT SCHEDULE

ADVENT I: Sunday, December 1, Pr. Barbara Rossing

Wednesday, December 4

5:30 p.m. Bible Study, Pr. Rossing

6:00 p.m. Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer, Tom Witt pianist, Barbara Rossing and Dawn Kranz vocalists

ADVENT II: Sunday, December 8, Pr. Barbara Rossing

Wednesday, December 11

5:30 Bible Study, Pr. Rossing

6:00 p.m. Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer, Barbara Rossing and Dawn Kranz vocalists

ADVENT III: Sunday, December 15, Pr. Phil Misner, Assistant to the Bishop, NW Intermountain Synod

4:00 to 7:00 p.m. - Games, Dinner and Lefse making for all ages

Wednesday, December 18

5:30 Bible Study, Pr. Rossing

6:00 p.m. Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer, Barbara Rossing and Dawn Kranz vocalists



ADVENT IV: Sunday, December 22, Pr. Barbara Rossing



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 5:00 p.m., Pr. Barbara Rossing

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 10:00 a.m. at Mountain Meadows
Pr. Barbara Rossing

Sunday, December 29 – Pr. Barbara Rossing



Thank you, Pastor Barbara Rossing....

Pastor Barbara Rossing has joyfully responded to the council's request to line up preachers and worship leaders after Eva's resignation, and from the Worship Committee for assistance in securing musicians during the time Susan Butruille is unsure of her availability due to medical care. Additionally, Pr. Rossing has committed to preaching and leading worship through our Advent journey into the Christmas season. Here are some ways we will walk together through this joy-filled time.

Advent Tidings! By Barbara Rossing

"Set Every Peak and Valley Humming With the Word the Lord is Coming"!

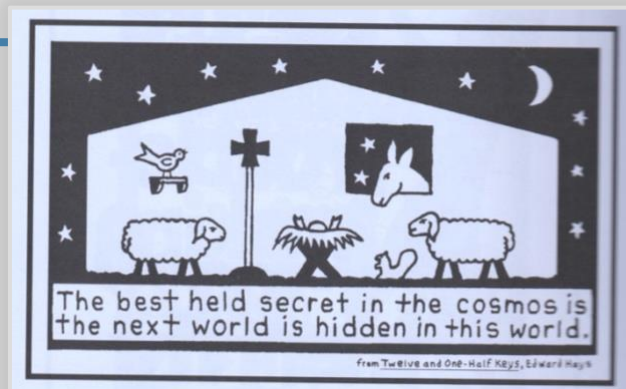
"Humming With the Word" is the theme of the Advent calendar from the ELCA World Hunger Program that will be given to each household of Faith to help guide the days of anticipation before Christmas.

Advent will stir up our hearts to prepare for Jesus' birth. In addition to the Advent Calendars, we will share the wonderful Advent booklet *Come Lord Jesus* by Susan Briehl, with prayers, readings and activities for home. Sundays, there will be Children's sermons using the mystery box. Reed and Amy have created Advent Logs (see page 7) to use as Advent Wreaths. Heather Murphy will help us create Evergreen sconces for the church as well as our homes.

Set up your empty manger scene now. Start the manger scene characters – Holy Family, shepherds, animals and magi, and the star - far away and inch them a little closer to the manger each day as we wait for God to draw near. If you are a family with children, you are invited to sign up to light the Advent wreath each Sunday.

Come to Wednesday Advent Soup Suppers at 6:00 preceded by a half hour Bible Study (5:30) looking at the upcoming Sunday scripture texts, especially from Luke's Gospel.

Tom Witt will be our pianist the first two Sundays of Advent and also mid-week December 4.

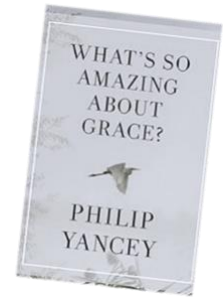




Weekly Happenings



BOOK GROUP: Each Tuesday, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. New book is *What's So Amazing About Grace?* By Philip Yancy. 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.

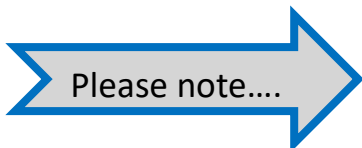
KNITTING AND CRAFTS: December 12, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

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

CHURCH COUNCIL: December 12, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

IMMIGRATION/RACE AND JUSTICE: December 4, (combined Nov./Dec. meeting) 6:00 p.m. Contact Alex Schmidt 509-548-7012 for details.

EARTH STEWARDSHIP GROUP: December 17, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall



Retired pastors of our congregation are available and want to provide pastoral care whenever needed. To connect, please reach out to Rev. John Schramm at 509-548-0404 for assistance.



- **January 11:** FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- **February 1:** VALENTINE DECORATING AND GAMES, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- **March 4:** FAT TUESDAY / MARDI GRAS PARTY!

Contact Mara at maramerritt@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping with these things and the dates you are available

(Dates are subject to change. We will try to keep website updated)

CHURCH COUNCIL November 2024



Treasurer's Report:

- There appears to be a slight upward trend in giving as a result of some annual gifts received in October but we are still behind the budget.
- The final payment for the HVAC has been made.
- Guest musicians now will be paid \$60 per service + max of \$100 travel expenses.
- Little Free Pantry is almost out of money. Plan needs to be made to continue funding.
- Thrivent members get two \$250 grants per year to fund church functions. Must apply.
- The \$900 council designated benevolence funds this year will be split between: The Methodist's backpack project and the Immigration Justice group at FLC.
- Barbara Rossing does not want to be paid for supply preaching and presiding but rather have funds set aside for her to attend conferences, etc.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Eva presented a four-page Pastor's Report with concluding reflections that summarized her pastoral ministry among us, with suggestions for us as leaders and a congregation to consider during the pastoral transition as we review and prepare for our future. Pr. Eva shared challenges she experienced and encouraged us to look at who we are and how we lead, work and communicate with each other and the congregation.

Property Committee:

- The state electrical inspection has been completed and HVAC's are working well.
- Exterior motion sensor lights and a Ring doorbell have been installed for security

Worship Committee:

Plans are complete through Christmas and has pulpit supply and pianist role mostly figured out. Thank you, Rolf Vegdahl, for last Sunday's music.

Parsonage Project Committee:

- Kitchen sink leak was repaired and the mini blind problem will be fixed. Ring doorbell installed.
- North Cascades Properties has been hired to find a renter starting Dec 7. Terms for the rental: \$2700/mo. + utilities + \$2500 refundable deposit. Six-month lease, thereafter month-by-month.

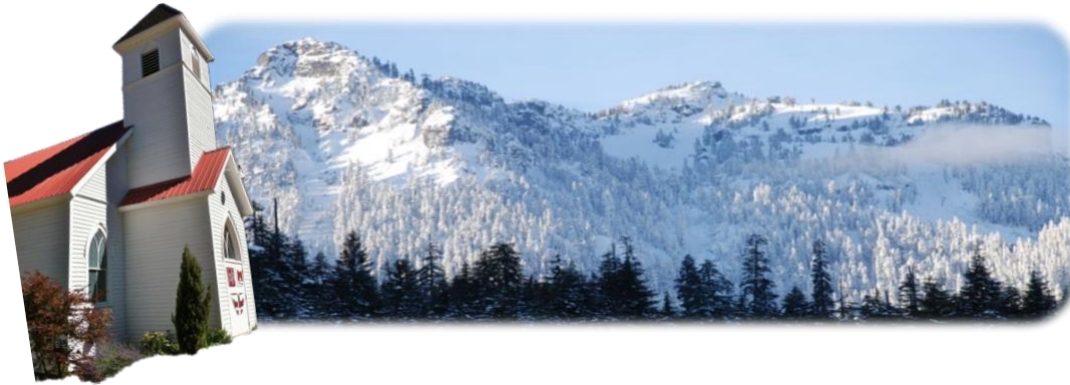
Old Business:

- Establish a finance committee in January
- Karl and Rosalyn met with Judy Weaver from the Methodist church to talk about common security issues, the possibility of joining forces on certain events, the need for further conversation about declining memberships.
- Garner ideas from people at the annual meeting about funding sources for the Little Pantry
- Pastor Eva's exit interview will be held on Sunday by Heidi and Greg H.
- MEND conflict resolution training pending...Bob Mark very busy this time of year!

New Business:

- With the new U.S. administration comes heightened immigration justice concerns. The WA Immigration Solidarity Network (<https://wisn.org>) host a training on Nov 22, 2024 via Zoom from 6-8PM. Register on their website. Also, Alex Schmidt has consented to doing adult forums on the subject...yet to be scheduled.
- New directories should include cell phone numbers. Pastor Eva is leaving a hard copy of updates with Deanne Erickson and Council Members.

Next Meeting: Dec 12, 6:00PM



Thanksgiving at the Conclusion of a Ministry

A service of *Thanksgiving at the Conclusion of a Ministry* was held on November 10, the last worship service with Pastor Eva Jensen.

There was thanksgiving offered for Pr. Eva's ministry among us, a release from call to Faith Lutheran and the following prayer written by The Rev. Eric Milner-White:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. 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 supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



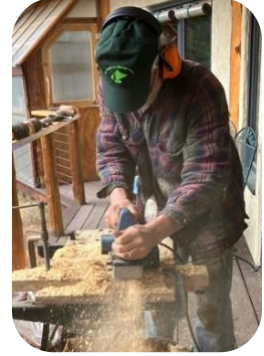
A Story of the Advent Log by Amy and Reed Carlson



Once upon a time, little ones scampered into the dining room to light the first candle of four that stood in a circular frame surrounded by evergreens. Each candle marked a Sunday in Advent, and the wee ones just had to wait to light another one until the next Sunday. They just had to wait, waiting for the birth of Christ.

Well, those wee ones are now adults who still love the anticipation and the waiting in this season of Advent. The culture they live in no longer knows how to wait, but the community of faith knows the pregnant possibilities found in waiting for the Christ child.

But no longer are we doing wreaths, but instead, wood. Surrounded by thickets of cherry, with their shiny coppery bark, we have experimented making Advent logs. Amy cuts down a tree or two with her chain saw, cuts the trunk and thicker branches into 14" pieces then hauls them in a wheelbarrow to a work bench where Reed planes the bottom of each, then drills holes to fit the white candles that Judith bought for the occasion. Once these logs are finished, they then get lacquered to seal the raw wood.



The candles, traditionally, have words associated with each. The first is for **hope**; the second for **peace**; the third for **joy**; and the fourth is for **love**. The log can be saved for next year (may need to be planed again as it dries out – let Reed know) or it can become a Yule log thrown into the fire on Christmas day. Legend has it that the log thrown into the fire creates flame/light to entice the sun to return!



Prayers for your Advent Candles at home from *Come Lord Jesus* by Susan Briehl



Advent I: *Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.*



Advent II: *Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the Advent candles.. Baptize us with the fire of your spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.*



Advent III: *Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. Bless us as we light the candles. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. May he give water to all who thirst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.*



Advent IV: *Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin. Bless us as we light the Advent candles. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son's birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed by God forever.*

Earth Stewardship November 2024

- The statewide Initiative 2117 was defeated and measure 2006 passed repealing a state law requiring plans to transition from natural gas to electricity.
- We understand the City of Leavenworth may be responding to the 70 ft lighted cross on Tumwater Ridge. Greg will investigate the code issues and may draft a letter suggesting that RC3 (Residents Coalition of Chelan Co) take up this issue.
- The Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce and WRI (Wenatchee River Institute) will host the *Three Kings Celebration* (Dia de los Reyes) on January 4 2025. We voted to make a donation from our Earth Stewardship account, to purchase compostable items (plates cups, utensils, etc.) to support the event this year.
- The first movie night will be scheduled after the holidays. Watch for details.
- Still planning to coordinate with Sleeping Lady to bring in a nationally recognized Climate speaker such as Catherine Aho. No further discussion.
- ELCA's Devotional Series "Our Kairos Moment: A study Guide on Earth's Climate Crisis" will take place the second Sunday of each January, February, March and April after worship. Leaders include Barbara Rossing, Greg Harris, Brisa and Lisa.
- The Earth Stewardship group is looking into the possibility of obtaining a commercial composting account with Winton MFG Composting. Church members and friends could sign up to make a small annual donation to help cover the cost and then bring their kitchen compost to a new bear proof compost collection bin at Church.
- Art gallery in the fellowship hall – see information below.
- We need an Earth Stewardship group calendar at church to keep track of upcoming planned activities. Please bring along any unused calendars you receive in the mail and we will pick one for use at the next meeting.
- Holden Village Women's Retreat - January 31-February 3, 2025. Heather Murphy will be leading workshops on *Sense of Place and Nature Journaling*.

Next Meeting: December 17, 2024, 6:30 p.m.



A Call to Artists!

The Earth Stewardship Group is establishing an art gallery in the Fellowship hall for display of works of art that celebrate a connection to nature, Earth stewardship, and God's creation. If you are an artist who would like to loan and share some of your artwork with members of the Faith Lutheran and our community in this way, please let us know! Contact Reed Carlson or Greg Harris for more details.

Getting to know Logan Florea.....

Many of you know Logan from his many visits to our congregation when he was living at home. Others of you are not familiar with his situation. This update is a very condensed version of his and his parents' saga.

As a baby, it became obvious fairly early that Logan was not developing normally. He had difficulty nursing and was not crawling or walking normally. Micah and Beth at the time were living in Costa Rica working for Engineering Ministries International (EMI). They came back to the US to have Logan



tested at Children's Hospital for known genetic conditions that would explain his difficulties. Eventually, they were able to isolate his condition. It is an extremely rare genetic disorder called Kleeftstra Syndrome after the doctor who isolated it. It is marked by a partial deletion of the 9th Chromosome and displays with intellectual disability as well as many other difficulties that involve the nervous system which is acutely affected (thus the difficulty nursing and with movement). Many of the known cases of Kleeftstra have demonstrated a downward spiral as they get into their teen years, though it appears Logan has escaped this.

Because of these limitations, Logan, who started off as a very happy and engaged child, began to get increasingly frustrated and agitated and acted out with increasing aggression. It got so bad that as he got bigger, he could not be handled by his mother and was not safe to be around his younger brother, Austin. Micah and Beth knew that it was critical that his aggression be dealt with in order for Logan to move on to more positive outcomes. This meant finding a residential facility that was focused on behavioral modification using the Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) approach in a systematic and thorough way. This approach keys on ignoring all negative and aggressive behaviors and only responding to positive behaviors with lots of reinforcements. This is difficult to do in public settings and with dangerous objects around (aggression gets worse before it gets better), so it takes having a very safe and controlled environment 24/7. Finding no such facilities in Washington State, they were able to get Logan into an established residential facility, called Bancroft, located in New Jersey in the summer of 2022. He has made tremendous strides in controlling his aggression and is ready to move on to the next phase of his growth. In November he was transitioned to the New England Center for Children in Boston, MA. The focus there will be to help Logan learn to function in society and learn some useful skills to reach his potential. Thank you for your support and interest in Logan's ongoing journey!

...Carl Florea



Our Mission is to create a global network of educators, researchers, and programs so that those living with autism may live fuller lives



God's Love Made Real from Lisa Therrell

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

Now that the Living Lutheran is no longer delivered to our mailboxes, it's a bit of a challenge to keep up with happenings in the ELCA. The *God's Love Made Real* initiative is one of those things. *God's Love Made Real* grew out of a churchwide concern that the ELCA was not effectively being inclusive and is easily stuck in traditional ways of seeing and doing. The ELCA is in a process of identifying how to reinvent our denomination to be more inclusive. Meanwhile, we are already living into *God's Love Made Real*.

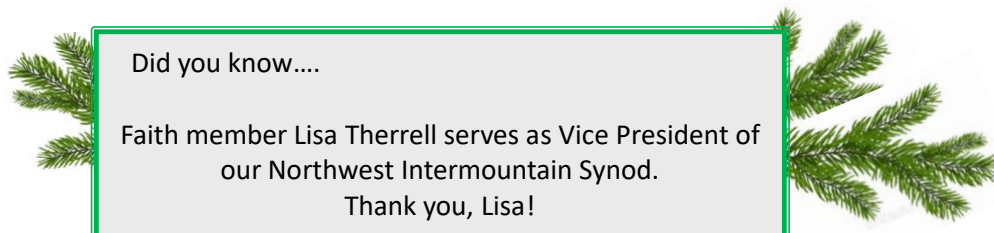
The tagline is to bring about “a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and all creation.” The goal is to reach out to younger and more diverse people, who may not voluntarily enter the doors of a church or relate to scriptures and hymns for hope and comfort in the same ways we do. How to do this? To encourage lay people to get outside the doors of the church and step up as the priesthood of all believers to offer hope and a message of God's grace for all.

On November 7, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton was part of a live discussion for our Region One synods, hosted by Bishop Shelley Brian Wee of the North West Washington Synod. Bishop Eaton spoke to how we need to find new ways to live out the old, old story. When asked for examples, Bishop Eaton shared how Trinity Lutheran, in Bonners Ferry, Idaho, stepped up with others in the community to establish a Human Rights Task Force. This action was in response to a leader of the KKK announcing a move to the area. This task force continues to this day and Trinity Lutheran is a safe place for people who feel marginalized by society. Bishop Wee then shared the example of a church in Whatcom County, Washington who planned a “Queer Youth Poetry Open Mic Night”. Event organizers started receiving threats ahead of the event. The organizers asked area pastors to step up and stand watch at the event which the pastors did. The night was one of sacred space and a very real example of God's Love Made Real.

What are the ways that Faith Lutheran lives into God's Love Made Real? What other creative ways can we be present and engage with our community? What can we do as individuals to proclaim God's grace? How can we be invitational? Come and see and taste how good God is...

To learn more, go to <https://lovemadereal.elca.org/>

To sign up for the Living Lutheran delivered to your inbox, go to [Sign up for our e-digest - Living Lutheran](#)





Welcome new members!

Ellen Farley, Dan Holm and Ellen Laramie were welcomed into membership of Faith Lutheran on November 3. Your presence and shared ministry is a blessing to us all.

Icicle Brewing Co. received three medals at the annual Washington Brewers Guild conference

Bronze - Hazy Pale
Silver - Cot in the Heat Chili Lager
Gold- Enchantment Hazy IPA (2nd year in a row)

Faith member Eric Krumland works as a Shift Brewer at Icicle.

Congratulations Eric and the entire Icicle Brewing team!



Happy Birthday to Karen Strom....

Longtime member of Faith, Karen Strom, joined our coffee hour on November 17 as we celebrated her 89th birthday.

Birthday blessings and best wishes always, Karen!

For 60 years Holden Village has welcomed people into the wilderness to form and renew their relationships with God, the earth and each other. Guests and staff enjoy nature, community life, music, art and worship while engaging in conversations about life, faith and the world. For all of Holden's history, one of the things people return to their homes, schools and faith communities with is a prayer:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. 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 supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Written by The Rev. Eric Milner-White, of Kings' College, Cambridge, England, the prayer, titled "The Call of Abraham," was first published in 1941 in a little book titled *Daily Prayer*, compiled by Milner-White and G.W. Briggs.

Certainly, the people of England, gathered in their churches and worried in their homes during World War II, could identify with "The Call of Abraham" and its sense of an uncertain future held in God's guidance. The prayer offered hope for the future in a hopeless time.

The prayer found a Lutheran readership in 1958 when it was included in the *Service Book and Hymnal* (SBH) and became Prayer No. 96, "For Guidance". The SBH was the worship book at Holden in its first years, and Villagers from the time might remember the invitation to turn to "Prayer 96 on page 231." As the prayer made its way from the village to countless other contexts, it became known as "The Holden Prayer." In 1987 the prayer was published in the *Lutheran Book of Worship* under "Morning and Evening Prayer," and in 2006 the prayer was included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

The phrase in this prayer that most seems to capture people's imagination and spirit is "good courage." What strength and direction these words give, especially when sustained by God's guiding hand and supporting love! These are words for every season, every person, every community. The prayer senses a strong foundation for life's journey, for God's calling to service and vocation, and its vision of new paths and even perils blesses each person for whatever might come next.



Nancy L. Winder

Nancy L. Winder, now retired and living in Seattle, served twice as pastor of Holden Village and has been researching "The Holden Prayer" for more than 30 years.



Thanksgiving! Free Little Pantry

A sincere thanks to those of you who have stepped up to graciously provide food for the Free Little Pantry. Right now the pantry is almost entirely reliant on donations from our congregation, although food donations do show up directly into the pantry from unknown sources. Blessed be!

A special thanks also to Leesa Broker, who as a Thrivent investor has requested Action Dollars to help support the Free Little Pantry. This is easy to do. If you are a Thrivent investor, please consider doing this to support a Faith Lutheran ministry. An example is Deb Florea and Karen Strom supporting the quilters group with supplies. Thrivent provides \$250 to support a fraternal event (in this case, coffee hour following worship on December 8) and a good cause. Leesa is requesting that people bring a donation on December 8 to support the pantry—either funds or food.

It takes about \$3,000 per year to purchase food and other essentials for the Free Little Pantry. Just think, if even just four Thrivent investors supported the Free Little Pantry in this way, that would cover about 1/3 of our expenses. If you want to know more about how to do this, talk to Leesa or your Thrivent representative. Please help the Free Little Pantry be financially sustainable.

As daytime temperatures dip below freezing, we will be switching to foods that won't be damaged by freezing. This means avoiding liquid foods such as canned goods and things in glass jars. Consider foods such as noodle bowls, dry soup, instant mashed potatoes or hash browns, mac & cheese, peanut butter, crackers, tortillas, etc.



Family fun preparing for Christmas.... After church November 24, 2024



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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 by December 19 or the January issue.

