



## Life of Faith

JUNE 2024

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Pastor Eva Jensen

### From our president....

I would like to expound on the joys of Volunteering. I designated this month of May as a volunteer opportunity and it has been extremely satisfying. One of the many joys of volunteering is working with other people that have similar but not identical skillsets. I know a bit of carpentry but learned a number of tricks about laying laminate flooring. I learned what a subcompact tractor can do to help a team and also when it is too small to do the job.

I got a geology lesson on what lies below the soil in our churchyard. There are a lot of large pieces of granite that used to be up in the Enchantments now buried below our downtown topsoil. Some are on display now just to the left of the church steps. Think about the ancient glacier that picked them up like straws and carried them to us eons ago. I learned that they used to patch leaking underground pipes with a wrapping of concrete, an effective patch that hardens more the wetter it gets.

I painted with expert painters that can cut a trim line like a laser, most impressive! I got to spend time with Dan, a quiet man in our congregation who has been many places and knows a lot, including how to wire in under cabinet LED light fixtures.

I met the folks at the old Winton Mill who are now running the Winton Compost facility. They take yard and food waste and turn it into rich black topsoil. Take a look, that soil is gracing our front lawn at Faith.

I encourage you to inventory what you know, what you are able to do and find a place to apply those skills as a Volunteer. Faith congregation has Volunteer doctors, nurses, interpreters and more. Pastor Alex is with the Red Cross helping tornado victims in the Midwest currently. Lauren has volunteered to stage a protest against the war in Gaza every Sunday. Connie keeps our elders sound by teaching SAIL classes, Danny sets up the chairs for outdoor worship Sundays and writes the History Corner for our newsletter. Volunteers that mow, trim, weed, and take out the trash get to feel that same satisfaction. It's not like a job that you have to do for a paycheck. Volunteers get repaid with personal satisfaction and personal growth, we learn some good things too. Find a need that you can help address, then show up! It is awesome. It is community. It is who we are.

In God's Everlasting Grace,

Karl Kranz





**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. John Schramm writes.....

*The Book Group is reading a book by Philip Yancey. He writes about 13 mentors who brought him back from a very bad experience with the church. He credits them with bringing him to a fresh experience of the Christian faith. His faith is now more gracious and joyful, thanks to these people. It is a very helpful experience for each of us to think of those who have brought us to the faith or expanded, renewed it. We might want to try it!*

**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:** June 12 and 26, 1:30 – 3:00, Fellowship Hall

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

**CHURCH COUNCIL:** June 27, 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

**EARTH STEWARDSHIP GROUP:** June 11, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

**FARM BILL:** Informational meeting, June 13 6:00 – 7:00 via zoom



**OUR KAIROS MOMENT:** ELCA's creation care study, June 25, 5:00 p.m.



**Lutherans Restoring Creation (LRC)** is a grassroots movement promoting **care for creation** in the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**. Faith Lutheran has supported LRC for several years through our Annual Endowment Grants. Four on-line events are scheduled this summer. Two of them took place in May but there are two more opportunities. You may participate from your home as an individual or invite a friend or small group to join you for the Zoom events.

June 25, 5:00pm Pacific Time: **Our Kairos Moment**, exploring the ELCA's new creation care study guide.  
<https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/event/connections-call-our-kairos-moment/>

July 30, 5:00pm Pacific Time: **Green wallet, Green Earth**.  
<https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/event/connections-call-green-wallets-green-earth/>

## CHURCH COUNCIL     May 2024

### Treasurer's Report:

- Weekly contributions continue to be below budget.
- Sewer line replacement was ≈ \$20,000 in April. \$50,000 was paid to the no-interest bridge loan for capital campaign funds and \$25,000 pledge was paid to MEND for affordable housing as part of the 10% promised from the campaign. More to come as pledges mature.
- It is requested that if any group has an expense beyond \$300 to connect with Greg Steeber first.

### Pastors Report:

- Attended two professional/personal development opportunities.
- Thank you to lead team of Dawn/Karl Kranz, Mary/Greg Steeber, Greg Harris and many others for the work on the parsonage.
- Worship has been planned into the Pentecost season.
- New Pentecost paraments designed and woven by Nadine Sanders will be celebrated on June 2.
- Deanne Erickson continues to be a gift, critical in the office.
- Pastoral Care: Need to “formalize congregational care” to have lay persons share the care, ex. bring communion to those who can't make the service.
- The book group is growing.
- The Earth Stewardship group continues to create energy around future projects and learning opportunities. The installation and blessing of the bike rack made by Karl Kranz and Zeke Reister transpired on E-Sunday, May 19, when we all were encouraged to get to church without fossil fuel. Also, Pastor Eva and others attended the First Sacred Salmon Ceremony of the P'squosa.
- Every Sunday afternoon, Lauren Johnson continues to protest the war in Gaza. Other opportunities for advocacy action are available through Wenatchee River Institute, Faith Action Network, ELCA World Hunger, ELCA Disaster Relief, and ELCA Lutherans Restoring Creation.
- Karl Kranz and Pastor Eva attended a synod regional gathering led by Bishop Manlove.
- Dia de los Reyes (The Day of the Kings): After last year's success, Wenatchee River Institute, Alex Schmidt and others will once again be planning for another Day on Jan 4, 2025 (an Epiphany event) to celebrate the Latinx people and culture in the Valley.

### Property Committee:

- The sewer project is complete. The final cost will be ≈ \$20,000.
- The committee will restore the lawn and yard as much as possible to the condition that existed before the excavation and repair work.
- We recommend that a landscaping plan be formulated and approved before making significant changes to the property. The formation of a landscaping committee was briefly discussed.
- We received \$500 from the Endowment fund to buy a new water heater for the Fellowship Hall.
- There was discussion about acquiring a bear proof garbage can for trash. It would be a larger can but also \$100 additional cost per year. For now, we will look for people to put the trash out early on Wednesday mornings as an alternative to the additional expenditure.
- Lawn mowing was discussed. Faith now has a functional lawn mower and our renter is mowing the area between the Benton Street rental house and the Sanctuary. We can save \$45 a week by mowing our own lawn. Karl recommended that we put up a sign-up sheet and each person that signs up would mow for a 2-week or month-long period this summer.



Photo by Kirk Beckendorf. Thank you!

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- **Special enthusiasm award to Greg Harris and his tractor; together, they put the entire retaining wall back up!**

### Worship Committee

- Carl Florea will preach June 2 with Pr. Eva presiding.
- Rosalyn will check with the Camps about continued use of their electronic keyboard.
- We need a new amplifier for the piano at the cost of about \$100.
- Danny will be “The Chair Man” once again to set up outdoors.

**Endowment Committee:** The endowment letters have been written, soon to be mailed to recipients.

### Parsonage Project Committee:

- The Tumwater Parsonage basic furniture has been acquired for Pastor Eva.
- New flooring throughout the house will be installed by Memorial Day and the move in process will begin. Pastor Eva needs to vacate the condo by May 31. Jan and her truck will help with moving on the 29th, other volunteer movers should contact Pastor Eva.
- The Tumwater Work parties were a success. The painting of the entire interior has been completed and a good start accomplished on yard maintenance. We are helping support the Winton Compost project, 2 full truckloads of yard waste so far.

### Old Business

- Earth Stewardship: The first bike rack at Faith has been installed and blessed. We can pick up another collection of bikes from the dump, courtesy of Kris at Chelan County, to build a second rack out front.
- Annual Pastoral Evaluation: The process was discussed and will be completed by mid-June.
- Openness to Change: We began discussion on opportunities for change at Faith, more to follow.
- Post-Purchase Event: We are planning an informational meeting for the Congregation about church finances post purchase of the Tumwater Parsonage. We agreed to have the meeting after Labor Day when folks have returned from summer adventures.
- Tumwater Open House: Council will have an open house for the congregation to tour the public areas and yard of the parsonage as soon as Eva is settled.
  - Echo Article: The article for the Echo about Faith was discussed again. We need to get past the parsonage project before moving forward with this.



Photo by Kirk Beckendorf. Thank you!

### New Business

- The recent Synod regional gathering in Ellensburg was very useful with Pastor Eva and Karl attending. Unfortunately, Lisa Therrell was unexpectedly unable to attend. The Bishop is warm and welcoming, there were many people from many congregations present and ideas such as inventorying the skills of the congregation and repurposing unused space were part of an excellent presentation on stewardship.
- Council agreed to pay \$100 as a Prost sponsor for the Chamber of Commerce at Oktoberfest, and we will call for volunteers to be ambassadors again at the downtown celebration in the Fall.

**Next Meeting:** June 27, 6 p.m., with Zoom

## Faith Lutheran Endowment Grant Awards



The Faith Lutheran Endowment Committee had a challenging task this year. \$5,100 was available for disbursement from our endowment. The fourteen requests totaled \$7,950, much more than the amount available to give. Many requests were funded for less than the requested amount and several were turned down. That being said, we should all feel good that Faith is able to support meaningful ministries and ways that our community works for the betterment of society. Checks will be sent by late June.

Grants are given out in the following categories in accordance with our endowment resolution.

**1. Outreach into the local community or synod (must total at least 20% of dollars awarded).**

- Dangerous Women. Funding to pay for production costs including travel costs for the indigenous women participating in this production.
- Ingalls Creek Enrichment Center Summer Fellowship. Funding towards a Fellowship for working with the residents of Dwelling Place, Cornerstone, and Coyote House, all being adult family homes for individuals who are developmentally disabled.
- Upper Valley Connection Art Program. Funds to provide art supplies and stipends for instructors serving individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Upper Valley Historical Society. Funds to provide travel costs and a stipend for P'squosa tribal members serving as speakers for a Fourth Grade field trip.

**2. Churchwide Ministries (at least 20% of dollars awarded).**

- Lutherans Restoring Creation – Funds to help cover a stipend for a Young Adult Outreach Coordinator.
- Companion Synod – Funds to help with flood relief in the Ulanga Kilombero Diocese in Tanzania. A vast region in East Africa is recovering from unprecedented flooding.

**3. Extraordinary programs, capital improvements, or other ministry initiatives within this congregation (at least 20% of dollars awarded).**

- FLC Earth Stewardship – Funds to support activities of this group.
- FLC Quilters – Funds for quilt batting.
- FLC Hot Water Heater – Funds to replace the hot water heater in the Fellowship Hall.
- FLC Free Little Pantry – Funds to purchase food and other essentials.
- Immigration/Race Justice Group – Funds to assist with costs of Driver's Education. Having a licensed driver provides families with improved access to work, school, etc.

**4. Other non-profit humanitarian organizations (at least 10% of dollars awarded).**

- Luceritos – Funds support teaching very poor kids in Guatemala how to sew, a valuable skill for helping support their families.
- Waste Loop – Funds support the work of this Leavenworth non-profit organization with a mission to inspire the transformation of local 'waste' streams into sustainable resources.



***Thank you to all of those who applied and are doing such inspiring work in our community and our world!***

## Earth Stewardship Group



Thank you, Karl Kranz, for building and installing a bike rack by the Fellowship Hall. Next step is for our Earth Stewardship group to begin working with the city to install bike racks on Front Street.



*Creator God, who set the stars in their places and directs the course of the planets; who robed this earth with a thin garment of air, making it a haven of beauty and life; who breathed into each of us the breath of life: We thank you for the gift of air.*

*Bless us in our commitments to reduce the harmful emissions that threaten our air quality and all life on the planet. **Bless this bike rack, a sign of our growing commitments to environmental stewardship.***

*Bless all bikers who will use this bike rack and all who share the roads and pathways with people on wheels. Journey with us, O God, that we may travel safely and with joy in this beautiful land.*

*Create in us such a sense of wonder and delight in this gift and in all your gifts that we receive them with gratitude, care for them with love, and generously share them with all your creatures, to the honor and glory of your holy name. **Amen.***

On May 19 members of the Faith Lutheran community committed to use low emission modes of transportation to get to church. Some biked, some walked, some used low emission vehicles.....



- Faith member Heather Murphy was part of the Olympic National Park's "Terminus Project" which highlighted various artists work honoring various glaciers that are disappearing. Here is a video of the project. Heather's presentation is at minute 9:09.  
[https://www.google.com/search?q=Terminus+Project+heather+murphy&oq=Terminus+Project+heather+murphy&gs\\_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQIRigATIHCAIQIRigATIHCAIQIRigATIHCAUQIRigAdIBCDg0NTZqMGo3qAlAsAIA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cj](https://www.google.com/search?q=Terminus+Project+heather+murphy&oq=Terminus+Project+heather+murphy&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQIRigATIHCAIQIRigATIHCAIQIRigATIHCAUQIRigAdIBCDg0NTZqMGo3qAlAsAIA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cj)
- Our group is exploring additional ways to honor our local disappearing glaciers and promote discussion around climate change.
- With summer being a time of travel and being outdoors, we decided to host the Climate+Faith devotional series in the fall. Stay tuned for details.
- Next meeting: June 11, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

On May 6, 2024, a deadly EF-4 tornado touched down in Barnsdall, Oklahoma, destroying homes and forcing evacuations. It was the second tornado to hit the town in five weeks. Many homes were damaged and a nursing home evacuated residents because of gas leak from storm damage.



Faith member Pastor Alex Schmidt was invited to deploy to OK with the Red Cross (Disaster Spiritual Care) to be a part of the aftermath recovery of the tornados. He left May 13 to be on site for 10 days. Here are reflections from his first days.

*This is certainly an eye opener and a profound, deep, and touching ongoing experience. I also think of all those other places in the world....*



*This is our set up on May 14 next to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Folks would come to our tent for an intake and then a distribution of funds plus addressing other health and spiritual needs.....*

*If appropriate, I would ask a family if I could walk back to their former home with them. All were quite welcoming and grateful for the Red Cross. Very profound and tender conversations took place.....*



*A resident and his home which is about to be bulldozed to the street to be hauled away*

*FEMA will "measure" the debris as part of their damage assessment*



## The History Corner by Danny Thomassen

### Highlights of Martin Luther's Life: Part I

**1483:** Martin Luther was born in the village of Eisleben, Mansfeld County, Province of Saxony, Germany and baptized next day at St. Peter & Paul Church.

**1502-1505:** Luther completes his Liberal Arts education, receives Master's diploma and begins to study Civil Law for a career (Age: 19-22)

**1505-1511:** Quits law school and enters St. Augustine Monastery of the Black Cloister in Erfurt, Germany to become a monk (Age: 22-28)

**1507:** Luther was ordained as a Catholic priest at Erfurt Cathedral and performs his first Catholic Mass (Age 24)

**1510:** Luther walked 700 miles over the Alps from Wittenburg, Germany to the Catholic epicenter Rome. Here he witnessed unbridled greed and corruption, incompetent cynical clergy, veneration of holy relics and disillusionment by extravagant living (Age 27)

**1512:** Doctorate Degree (PhD) in Religious Philosophy, Professor at Wittenberg University, Germany (Age 29)

**1517:** Posts 95 Thesis on door of Castle Church, Wittenberg, Germany in protest against the Dominican friar Johannes Tetzel selling indulgences on behalf of the Catholic Church in Saxony, Germany (Age 34)

**1518:** Luther meets in Augsburg, Germany with his mentor Father Johann von Staupitz, Chair of Theology at Wittenberg University and Catholic Cardinal Thomas Cajetan from Rome. Luther was to be arrested if he did not recant Pope Leo X right to sell indulgences and slipped out of town during the night. Father Staupitz was summoned by Rome to council Luther to be silent. The two friends could not reconcile their differences. (Age 35)

**1519:** Luther's "Tower Experience" in the Augustinian Black Cloister, Wittenberg, Germany: Romans 1:17 God's righteousness through faith, grace, and justification (mercy). (Age 36)

**1519:** Luther meets Dr. Johannes Eck; Professor of Theology at University Ingolstadt in Leipzig, Germany to debate. Eck's mission on behalf of Rome was to challenge Luther's teachings. The debate centered on the existence of purgatory, sale of indulgences, need for penance and legitimacy of papal authority. Eck branded Luther the new "Jan Hus", the Czech bohemian reformer burned at the stake by the Catholic Church in 1415 (100 years before Luther). Eck dedicated himself to crush Luther and his ideas.



*Continued Next Month*





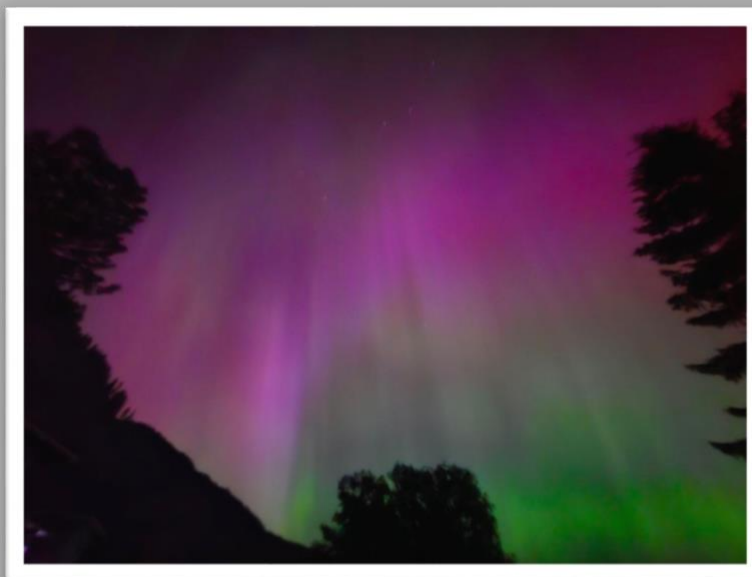
**Faith Journeys** is a booklet of reflections written by people of Faith Lutheran as part of our *Faith Moving Forward* Capital Fund Campaign. The campaign provides for affordable housing for our current and future pastors. One of these faith stories will be shared each month here in the newsletter. This month we hear from Amy Carlson.

## Spaciousness

I have been blessed in my life to have sat at the feet of some spiritual masters: John Schramm (yes, you), Mary Schramm (yes, you), Liz Caemmerer, Charlie Mays, and none other than Dan Erlander. This man embodied holy hilarity and the joy of play. Within this frivolity, Dan dove deeply into theological wrestlings using original language as his guide to difficult concepts. I will never forget when he blew my mind with a Hebrew translation of the notion of salvation as ‘spaciousness.’ This notion ignited what I had always known but couldn’t verbalize, that the love of God is the opposite of constriction, the opposite of tight, the opposite of closure—we can breathe. We can live into possibility without fear. We can be open and vulnerable in the midst of change. Now, I don’t always live this way, but Dan has shifted my axis from horizontal Chronos to vertical Kairos, allowing me to say ‘yes’ in the face of the world’s ‘nos’, “leading me through perils unknown, down paths as yet untrodden” into the infinite space of holy hilarity! Thanks, Daniel. *By Amy Carlson*



**Aurora Borealis from Rosalyn Francis’s backyard. Thank you for sharing Rosalyn!**



Parsonage preparation in pictures.







## ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH MINISTRY IN OUR SYNOD

Bishop Manlove has asked Rev. Kimmy Meinecke to serve as the synod’s ecumenical and interfaith representative with the tasks of naming, describing, highlighting the ecumenical and interfaith ministries which are in place throughout the Northwest Intermountain Synod and encouraging the people of the synod to be engaged in them.

Pastor Meinecke currently serves as the Vicar of St. David’s Episcopal Church in Spokane. There are many ecumenical ministries in our synod and we give thanks for these ministries and recognize the joy of worshiping, singing, serving, and praying with and among our siblings in Christ regardless of labels!



### 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 June 21 for the July issue.



