



Life of Faith

MARCH 2024

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Pastor Eva Jensen

***God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance,
so that by always having enough of everything,
you may share abundantly in every good work. (2 Cor. 9:8)***

Dear members and friends of Faith Lutheran Church,

This week in worship you danced to the altar sharing your financial pledges to ***live into the future as a faith community centering your lives in the life of Christ – God’s ways of mercy, compassion, and justice.*** You made generous financial pledges that will make it possible for you to purchase a lovely home that will serve as a parsonage for your pastors who will live among you, preach and teach, lead worship, baptize, break bread and share wine – the life of Christ – in your hungers and in your joys. **Congratulations! Amazing grace & generosity!**

Three months ago you committed to giving your time, efforts and many talents to organizing a campaign to raise these financial commitments that will strengthen your overall ministry of care for one another, the larger community of Leavenworth and beyond – people, community life, and the environment.

You have boldly stepped out of survival and into the future. Faith Lutheran has been opened to possibility! Your generosity will produce gratitude and expand commitments to care for God’s many gifts of life. I wonder,

What surprised you in this focused ministry campaign together?
What did you learn about yourself? Where were you challenged?
Where did you experience joy? What new conversations did you have?
Did you talk/work with people new to you? What did you learn?
What did you receive? Did you begin some new relationships?

I hope you will share with one another as you reflect on these questions. I hope you had new experiences of teamwork, unity, and experienced joy. These will serve as new seeds of life for the future of ministry at Faith.

Ten years from now, what would you like Faith to look like? Step out of the practical next steps planning. There is a sewer line to replace ... and more will be necessary. **But while the experiences of this *New Thing* are still fresh, consider:**

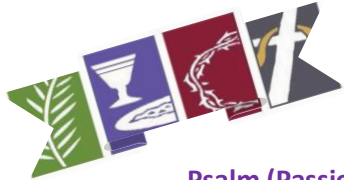
How might you continue to build relationships and get to know new people?
How might you open yourself to new conversations?
How might you create new spaces for coordinated action and collaboration?
What do you want FLC to look like in ten years?
Who will be involved? What do you see happening? Where are you involved?
What do you hear? How are people relating? Who is missing?
What values are central to your life together?
What have you “let go” to make room for new?

The abundant generosity and grace of God is with you and surrounds you. The Spirit of God is with you. You are growing in grace by the grace of God. What will you tend to as graceful and grateful stewards of God’s good gifts?

Pastor Eva Jensen

Our 2024 Lenten Journey of Faith continues towards Holy Week.....

Worship at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday and
Wednesday evening soup suppers, 6:00 p.m. and worship, 7:00 p.m. March 6, 13 and 20



HOLY WEEK

Psalm (Passion) Sunday: March 24, 9:30 am

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

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

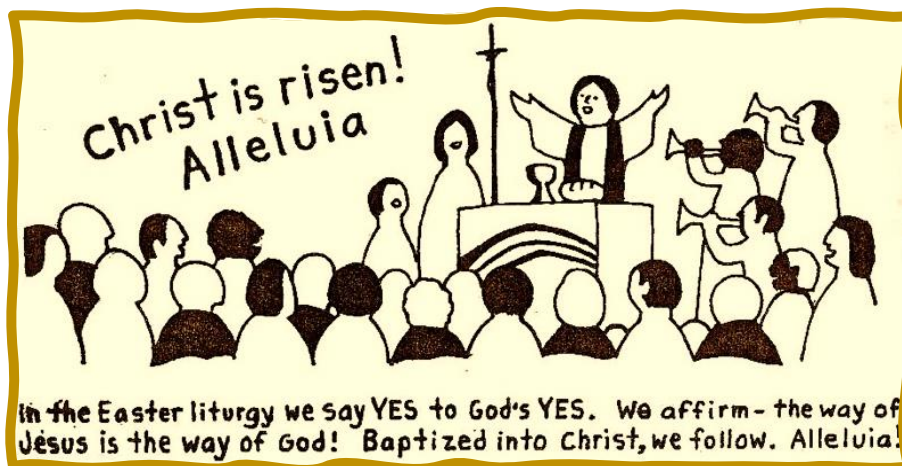
Easter Vigil: Saturday, March 30, 8:00 pm

EASTER: March 31

9:30 am: Worship

11:00 am: Potluck Brunch*

*Please bring a dish to share as you are able. No dish to bring? No worries! All are welcome.





BOOK GROUP: Each Tuesday from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Margaret Neighbors, 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: Check with Jan Monroe, twotoeheads@gmail.com

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

CHURCH COUNCIL: March 14, 6:00 p.m. with zoom capability

IMMITRATION/RACE AND JUSTICE GROUP: March 21, 6:00 p.m.



CHURCH COUNCIL February 2024

Pastor's Report

- Don Haven and Cindy Carroll continue to guide us through our *Faith Moving Forward* Campaign toward the purchase of a parsonage.
- Our Lenten theme is 'Holy Lament'. Eric Krumland is helping to craft the Wednesday night services of reflection and music. Wednesday night soup suppers will be organized by Rosalyn & Connie. The first midweek service will be in the parish hall after soup.
- Susan Butruille injured her hand and will not be able to play piano through Easter Sunday, at least. Replacement plans are underway.
- There has been a number of forums after Sunday morning coffee hour including a talk by Savanna Sullivan (Lutheran World Federation) on COP28, a talk by Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb (Lutheran pastor in Jerusalem) on the war in Gaza and a *Faith Moving Forward* rally. Forums on Funeral & End-of-Life Planning are being planned.
- Pr. Eva continues to meet with members of the Faith community and seek conversation with those possibly interested in joining.
- Deanne Erickson continues to work her magic with keeping congregants informed and connected via Emails, bulletins and bulletin inserts.
- Hope to create a brochure of Small Groups & Committees at Faith.

Treasurer's Appointment and Report:

- The council voted to appoint Greg Steeber as a council member to fill the vacant position.
- Monthly contributions are below budget but with reserves, bank balances are stable even with the withdrawal of \$110,000 for down payment on the new parsonage.
- Benevolences are being paid quarterly and some annually (not monthly)
- Our *Forward in Faith* campaign is moving forward with good energy.

Property Committee

- Vent pipes are still vertical, a sump pump in the crawl space and a new water heater are needed.
- The Tumwater Dr house will need some maintenance.
- HP office printer continues to have problems

Tumwater Parsonage Project Committee

- Provisional approval has been received from Mission Investments regarding our mortgage application.
- A purchase agreement was signed (\$575,000), earnest money delivered, closing is April 1.

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Election of Officers

- Unanimously approved a slate: Karl Kranz, president / Rosalyn Francis, vice president / Amy Carlson & Heidi Krumland, co-secretaries / Greg Steeber, treasurer

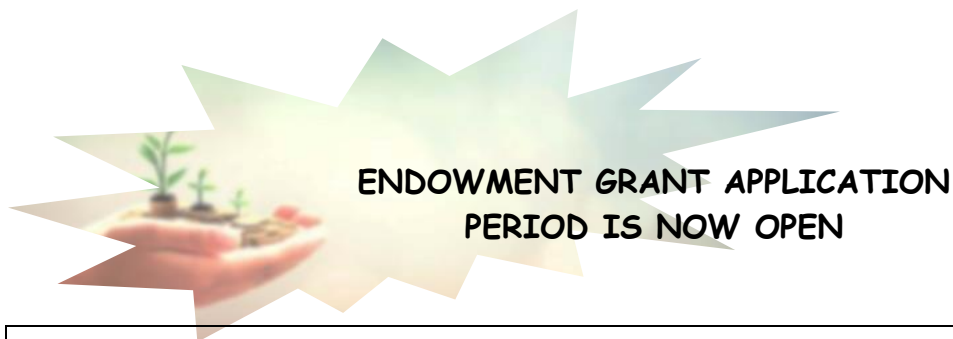
Old Business

- Revive Earth Stewardship Committee
- Free pantry received a \$450 grant from Spokane Valley Advent Lutheran Church
- Capital Campaign update: *Abundance Sunday* is Feb 25. Pledge cards will be received during worship. Money has been received from Thrivent to help pay for festivities to celebrate.

New Business

- Intuit Quickbooks administrator will be transferred from Trudy Leverenz to Kelly Hassinger.
- Reconciling in Christ statement will be added to our website and Leavenworth Echo listing will be corrected.
- Video streaming/recording of worship has been missed recently due to absences of persons trained to record. The process needs to be reviewed.

Next meeting: March 14, 2024, 6:00 p.m.



Grant applications are now being accepted by the Faith Lutheran Endowment Committee through March 31, 2024. This year there is \$5,100 available for distribution which is up \$700 from last year! Still, the amount available is relatively small so consider this in your request.

The endowment committee carefully follows the endowment resolution established by our congregation. The grants are to be distributed in the following percentages:

- Minimum of 20% for outreach into the local community or synod
- Minimum of 20% for Churchwide ministries
- Minimum of 20% for extraordinary programs/capital improvements or other ministry initiatives within this congregation
- Minimum 10% for other non-profit humanitarian organizations
- Remaining 30% distributed through any of the above categories

The application will be sent to Faith Lutheran community via email or you can request an application from Lisa Therrell at merrymulesears@msn.com or committee members Debbie Florea, Jan Monroe and Pastor Eva Jensen. Please contact any of us if you have questions.

Last year grants were awarded to the following programs/projects: Immigration/Race Justice Group, Dangerous Women, Lutherans Restoring Creation, C.E.I.P.A.: Luceritos, Tumaini Boarding School, Men in the Mirror, the Free Little Pantry, SAIL, FLC Quilters, and the Ingalls Creek Enrichment Center.



Two Grants Received from Advent Lutheran Endowment

Advent Lutheran Church is located in Spokane Valley. The church has an endowment of which their bylaws allow them to share portions with other ministries throughout our synod. The endowment just provided \$450 for Faith Lutheran's Free Little Pantry for the purchase of food and other essentials. The endowment provided an additional \$450 to the Immigration/Race Justice Group, who has already used the funding to help five families partially fund driver's education classes for teenagers. Once a teenager has their license, they are able to help provide adequate transportation for their families to work, school and so on. Driver's Education now costs \$550 per student.

According to Pastor Matt Larson, Advent Lutheran had more grant applications than ever. Most requests were funded less than the requested amount.

Thank you, Advent Lutheran, for your kind and generous heart.



Immigration/Race Justice Group (I/RJG)

No meeting in February. Next meeting March 21. Thank you for all of your good work!

Earth Stewardship Group Begins Again at Faith!

The new Earth Stewardship group is still organizing and continues to welcome people to join by adding their name to the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any interest at all, this is a time to get in on the ground floor of planning! The group is open to all. If you know of people in the larger Leavenworth community beyond Faith Lutheran who share interest in preserving and protecting our planet and natural world, please invite them! The group has had preliminary conversation about possible activities and has much enthusiasm about many different opportunities. Please watch for notifications of meeting schedule.

Hear Keynote address by Faith member Barbara Rossing via zoom

Barbara Rossing will give the keynote address *Kairos for Creation, Kairos for Mission: Hope for our Common Home* at the World Mission Institute in Chicago on February 29.

Register to receive zoom link at <https://lstc.edu/event/2024-world-mission-institute/> 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time



The History Corner by Danny Thomassen

Who was Martin Luther anyway? As a man from the 16th Century living over 500 years ago what impact, if any, could he have on us living in the 21st Century? The general media today celebrate him as “The Reformer”; a man who changed the world, the “fallen Catholic” who disrupted the sanctity of the papacy in Rome. Did he really? During his times the Catholics had labeled him a “protestant” or what we would call today a “protester” with a sign on the streets of a modern downtown city.

On 31.October.1517 Martin nailed “his sign” (95 *Thesis*) to the wooden door of the Castle Church (*community bulletin board*) in downtown Wittenberg, Germany. He expected an intellectual gentleman’s debate on several issues. He was protesting Rome’s sale of indulgences to the German population who were already on the margins of financial survival. Luther knew that Pope Leo X was building St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome and needed an enormous influx of liquid capital to support his construction project. The coffers of the Vatican were going to be negatively affected by this “protest”. The reaction from the papacy would involve much more than a simple debate for this virtually unknown Catholic priest living in Wittenburg.

Superstition during the 16th Century was ramped-up to the level where the average citizens harbored exaggerated fear of mortal death and possible eternal damnation based on their “works on Earth”. The Roman Catholic Church papacy offered a “*get out of jail free*” card; for a few taler (*dollar*) in the till you could receive a document from the Pope guaranteeing eternal salvation. For a few extra taler you could even release your dead loved ones who were



suffering in purgatory. This was the in-group’s strategic advantage over the out-group (The Germans).

Today we see protests on our city streets all the time. There is usually an in-group and an out-group. We scoff at the out-group hurling verbal insults and can even witness moderate violence and destruction of private property. As human beings wrapped up in our daily lives, we sometimes fail to focus our perspectives on the intentions of the out-group and begin to set our boundaries, limit our circles, and possibly ignore the misfortune and suffering of others. The homeless tent camps along our freeways, highways and in our large cities are an overt form of public protests. It can become easy to distance ourselves or even ignore complex life situations, denying others (i.e. out-group) a sense of agency in our society. We could consider Martin as one of the pioneer “protesters” as Europe was gravitating towards a more modern era of Enlightenment.



On February 25, Faith Lutheran celebrated Abundance Sunday where community members had the opportunity to offer their pledges of support for the *Faith Moving Forward* Campaign during worship. The service was followed by a festive luau to celebrate the gifts received. See photos at the end of this newsletter.

The pledges received so far truly demonstrate abundant generosity and confidence in our mission. There are a number of people who have indicated they would like to participate in the campaign but were not able to be present for Abundance Sunday or live at a distance and have not had the opportunity to get their pledges in the mail so it is too early to announce a final dollar amount. Early numbers indicate we will far surpass our goal of \$250K which is sheer blessing as it further reduces the size of mortgage needed to purchase the parsonage.



From our Campaign consultants....

It was a moving and spirited Abundance Sunday worship on February 25! In addition to a wonderful liturgy and a great sermon, the musicians even provided music for dancing around the altar during the offering of pledges and gifts for the *Faith Moving Forward* Campaign! And the Festival Luau following worship was magnificent – truly a “Wow” experience provided by our Hospitality Team. The welcome with leis set the stage, followed by the creative decorations and table settings, the fabulous Hawaiian food – and to top it off - beautiful Hawaiian dancing.

We want you to know how grateful we are to have been invited to walk alongside the people of Faith during the past few months as they raised money to provide affordable housing for pastoral leadership. We have been impressed with the willingness, creativity and the wonderful generosity of this congregation. You and your leaders created a vision of acquiring affordable housing for your current and future pastors. You have dedicated 10% of the funds raised in the campaign to help support MEND in its mission to develop an empowered community with equitable access to food, housing, wellness, and economic security. There’s a possibility of creating an outdoor worship space next to the Fellowship Hall. Your participation in and through the teams that were formed during the campaign have brought a sense of teamwork and unity that will serve as a foundation for future ministry at Faith. In all of this, as the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian congregation, “You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity which will produce thanksgiving to God...”

There are many people to thank but we want to say a special thank you to Karl Kranz. His enthusiasm and his willingness to serve, not only as your congregation’s president, but also as the Chair of the Capital Campaign, has been a great gift to Faith Lutheran!

The success of the campaign goes far beyond the funds raised for this project. It illustrates how the generous people of Faith Lutheran continue to live into the mission to which you’ve been called by a loving, abundant and gracious Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer in all of life.

Thanks be to God!

Pr. Don Haven and Pr. Cindy Carroll, *Abundant Congregations*

Giving Thanks for the Creators of the "Faith Journeys" reflection booklet



A "Faith Journeys" reflection booklet magically appeared on Abundance Sunday (February 25) and was distributed to people who came to worship and attended the Festive Hawaiian luau celebration. (If you didn't receive one, they will be available at church. Some will be mailed.)

The booklet was a labor of love conceived in the last weeks of *Faith Moving Forward* by two members who were able to inspire and invite people to write a faith story and then quickly get it formatted, printed and ready for you to receive on the day of the capital campaign celebration. It's another example of the way the Holy Spirit inspired people to generously share their creative gifts during the campaign process in such amazing and uplifting ways.

As there was no mention in the booklet of who created this lovely gift for the congregation!

Thanks and gratitude is extended to *Lisa Therrell and Amy Carlson*

Both Amy and Lisa rallied around the reflection booklet. They enthusiastically invited and inspired people to share their faith stories. The response was stellar. And it resulted in a rich and diverse collection of writings. Lisa formatted the pieces into the booklet and also provided the art on the cover: a block carving of a barley stock that she created. She quickly found a way to get it printed and delivered to Amy on Saturday so she could stuff them into envelopes and then handwrite the recipient's names on them.

May you be enriched by the blessings of this beautiful and unexpected surprise!



From Pr. Cindy Carroll who was unable to be with us on Abundance Sunday....

Faith Lutheran has been a dream congregation to work with around this campaign -- thanks to each of you and many others in the congregation who gave of their time, talents and resources. Don shared pictures and videos of today's celebration. I was there in spirit!

In deep gratitude, Cindy

Welcome Sarah!

Sarah Toney was ordained into Word and Sacrament ministry and installed as pastor of Celebration Lutheran Church in East Wenatchee on Saturday, February 24. Sarah is the daughter of Faith Lutheran member Lauren Johnson. It is a joy to welcome you, Sarah!



Do you miss reading the Living Lutheran? This magazine is now available for free on-line! To sign up, go to this webpage. You can manage what types of stories you wish to receive and the frequency.

[Sign up for our e-digest - Living Lutheran](#)

Thank you, Sherry!

At her sewing machine in her dining room, Sherry Thompson sews dresses out of pillowcases to ship to *Little Dresses for Africa*. The project was inspired by former Faith member Trudy Leverenz. Sherry is pictured here with a rack of dozens of dresses she has sewn and holding a photo of schoolgirls in Africa wearing some of her dresses. What an inspiring project!



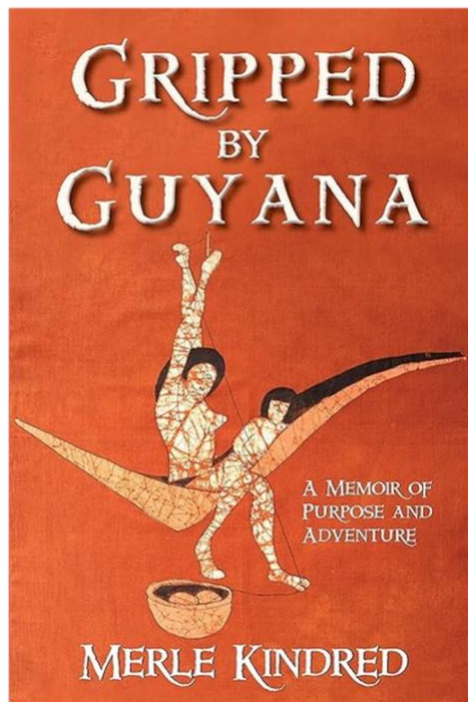
Photo by Barbara Rossing

Area People of Faith Advocate in Olympia

Susan Butruille was one of nearly 200 people of faith who gathered at the Capitol in Olympia on February 8 during the 2024 short legislative session to advocate for issues from the legislative agenda of FAN, Faith Action Network (fanwa.org), that promote service, justice and equality for the people of Washington. Susan joined 10 other constituents of Legislative District 12, mostly from Wenatchee, to hear plenary speakers, attend workshops and meet with legislators and staff. The Wenatchee/Leavenworth contingent met with Representatives Keith Goehner and Mike Steele and staff of Senator Brad Hawkins. Among the top issues for advocates were affordable housing, environmental issues and health equity. Our own Mayor Carl Florea testified in Olympia a week later in support of affordable housing and other issues.



Canadian Author and Adventurer to Speak at FLC



Author and adventurer Merle Kindred will give an illustrated presentation on her book, *Gripped by Guyana: A Memoir of Purpose and Adventure*, at Faith Lutheran on Tuesday, March 19 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Kindred, who lives in Penticton, B.C., volunteered with Cuso, the Canadian counterpart to the Peace Corps, for two six-month assignments in Guyana, on the northeast coast of South America, in 2017-18. In both urban and rural settings, the "senior volunteer" worked in development with the people of Guyana in agriculture, ecotourism and technology. Along with her development work, Kindred immersed herself in Guyanese culture, music, food, and nature -- especially birds, illustrating highlights in embroidery on the vest she still wears. Come meet this woman who lives -- and records -- her dreams and her values. Her book will be available. For further information, contact Susan Butruille.

CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!

In celebration of Women's History Month, the 2006 readers theatre production of *Our Founding Mothers* will be shown on March 19 at the United Methodist Church. Susan Butruille told the story of an early Leavenworth teacher and Harriet Bullitt portrayed a bootlegger who frequented the grounds of what would become Sleeping Lady. Tickets at the door.



A Message from Bishop Manlove

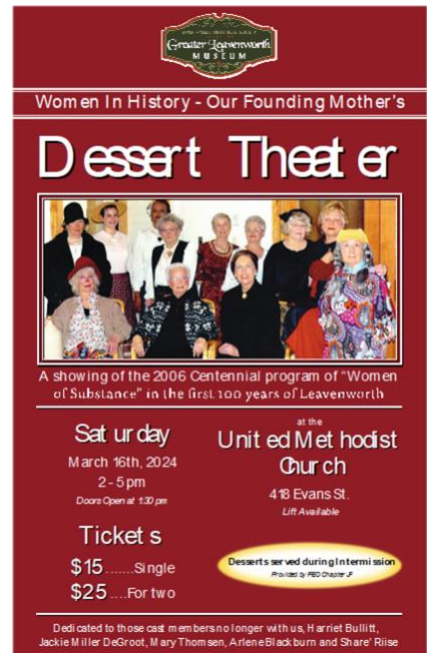
Regional Gatherings - What, Why, and Who?

I have been reading instructor Grace Pomroy's Stewardship Leaders Newsletter for at least five years. I know the word stewardship does not excite everyone as much as it does me, so let me state clearly that there has always been something unique about Pomroy's approach to generosity and stewardship. It is holistic, includes both data and stories, creative (but not trendy), and it is always grounded in scripture and prayer. Last summer, when I read the draft of her forthcoming book, I loved the way she started with the Ezra 3:10-13 passage and also began each chapter with Dwelling in the Word (similar to Lectio Divina). Over the years, I learned that Pomroy's seminary students do case studies on the various ways churches are finding or creating funding streams beyond the Sunday offering. So, when she said she was available to present at our three regional gatherings this spring, I was elated.

The regional gatherings are something I have been excited about since the idea first arose. I wonder sometimes if people think we wrote the resolution because we disliked synod assemblies. Nothing could be further from the truth. I love synod assemblies! I also love long retreats and full weeks at our outdoor ministry sites. I love the ELCA Youth Gathering. I am a product of so many of our Lutheran gathering events and spaces. My faith in the Triune God has been nourished, my soul has been fed, my conscience prodded, my sense of belonging and belovedness nurtured and my imagination opened by gathering with other Christians.

Who in your congregation would like a day with other ELCA Lutheran Christians? Who is ready to be inspired by Grace Pomroy, who cares deeply about congregational life and grounds her work in rich scriptural interpretation and wonderful questions? Who wants to get to know other people in your congregation with a mini-road trip to Twin Falls, Spokane Valley, or Ellensburg? Get ready to register and we will see you this spring.

Bishop Manlove





Abundance Celebrated!



324 Tumwater Dr.



Affordable housing in Leavenworth



And even more abundance



324 Tumwater Dr.



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.

Our 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.

Our 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.

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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 March 22 for the April issue.

