



Dear Faith Family,

April Birthday: Amy Carlson, 28th

Texts for Sunday: Acts 8: 26-40; Psalm 22: 25-31; 1 John 4: 7-21; John 15: 1-8.

Sunday's service will be presented by Lutheran Campus Ministry! Sunday School lessons will be mailed as usual, and the pastor's letter and voice chat will continue.

The service presented by Lutherans Restoring Creation was so well-done! The sermon from our ELCA bishop was rich—so much I needed to remember! We are earth creatures and cannot escape our earthiness. God, in Jesus, became an earth creature and in death, His body was tended as an earthly death. I feel so connected to the earth and I have spoken before about my love of gardening. When I am digging in the dirt and preparing to plant, I feel at home and connected to the garden called earth. The Bishop pointed out that damage to this garden is not someone else's problem, but ours.

Saturday, the NWIM Synod held their first virtual assembly via ZOOM. Hats off to the great job done by synod staff; there were only a few minor blips, and the sessions were efficiently run. We even finished early!! There was much good news, particularly the ability of the synod to meet all their ministry obligations despite Covid 19. Bishop Kristen celebrated the gift of God's abundance. It was amazing to hear the work done by our synod to raise up new leaders, support current leaders, and serve our neighbors' needs. Support of our local synod and the wider ELCA organization makes a positive impact on the world! Christ is Risen!!!!

Back to the garden. I rushed it again this year. When I planted primroses, it snowed. A few days ago, I planted tomato plants and the weather took a chilly turn. My pumpkin starts were doing well until Peepers found the tender leaves tasty—evidently tastier than the aster and primrose blooms. Pray for me — better yet, pray for Peepers!!

New book coming up for Book Club: *After Trump—Achieving a New Social Gospel*, written by Donald Heinz, professor emeritus of religious studies at Cal State in Chico. He is an ELCA Lutheran pastor interested in ethics as social gospel and the sociology of religion as a contested public space. I have just read the introduction and am fascinated—already done lots of underlining. To join the new read (probably will launch in 2 or 3 weeks) contact Margaret Neighbors at [Mneigh67@gmail.com](mailto:Mneigh67@gmail.com).

If our community follows safety virus guidelines, we will soon be able to safely gather beginning out of doors! We have lots to talk about!

The psalmist assures us of God's protection: "I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." (Psalm 121: 1-2)

Love to you all,  
Pastor Nancy