



Life of Faith

May 2020

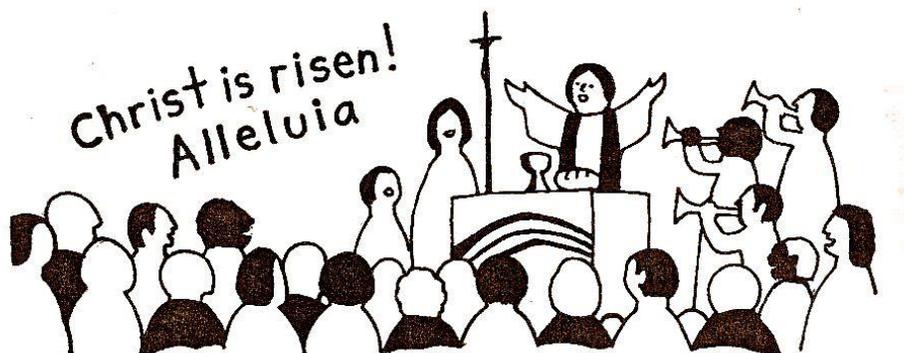
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FROM PASTOR NANCY

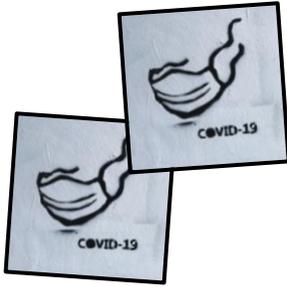
Last Thursday the focus of the devotion in “Christ in Our Home” was titled, “Pay Attention.” This is a healthful message for every day of the week as we deal with the new realities of isolation and social distancing. Despite our struggles to adapt to life with the virus, God is active and present among us. We won’t notice unless we limit the amount of time spent watching the news or engaging in on-line dialogue. Push the off button.

Let us be alert to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our midst—the acts of kindness that shine God’s unconditional love from neighbor to neighbor, friend to friend, stranger to stranger. Pray that God will use us as agents of hope and love. Pray that God will open our hearts in gratitude for the hope and love we receive!

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving.” Colossians 4: 2



In the Easter liturgy we say YES to God's YES. We affirm - the way of Jesus is the way of God! Baptized into Christ, we follow. Alleluia!



HELP! I'M STUCK

It seemed like a good idea to begin asking the FLC community what their reaction to the “Stay home, stay healthy” edict by our governor is. These three questions brought some thoughtful responses.

1. What has been most difficult for you to be quarantined?
2. What have you learned from this experience?
3. Will it change how I live in the future?

Bev Cagle

The most difficult thing for me has been the heartbreaking and heroic stories of those working on the front lines. As a learning experience, every day seems to be a window into how few things are truly important. Hopefully I can be guided by that when this is past.

John Butruille

I worry about our 3 medical family members that are fully involved. I have learned that we live in a wonderful county and community — that people care and work to help — and what we lack is national leadership at the top needs to be remembered in November. I have a renewed appreciation of family and friends in this time of worry for Susan and me.

Liz Caemmerer

That even though I live alone at this point in my life I am more dependent on people just stopping by and checking in than I thought. This has been so isolating. I've always considered myself a community person and I'm missing my faith community, my family and friends.

Joan Shumate

I miss fellowship with all of you and seeing people about. I am with my family and it has been very rewarding. But I miss my "peeps". I feel that practicing the Golden Rule more than ever will see us through this crisis. I treasure every moment of being alive and aware and will probably continue to do so in the future with more reverence.

John Schramm

The most difficult part of quarantine is being unable to be with extended family and friends. I have a deeper appreciation for all those I rely on such as medical people, sales people and delivery people. I also have a deeper gratitude for many of the aspects of my life including freedom of movement and companionship.

REPORT FROM THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

The building committee is tending to only deferred maintenance right now. As you may know we have the front door of the church off for repairs since it was rotting from below. We are getting estimates from various local contractors for repainting the church's exterior walls. The scraping and preparation is being discussed because the old paint contains lead and many companies won't touch it. We are working on mitigating this problem.

For the very faded, but still sound church roof, we are comparing the pros and cons of painting or replacing it. Local contractors and supply companies are advising us on this.

There are other projects planned for the wood siding and thresholds of our buildings that have been exposed to dampness from below and are rotting. Reed Carlson or Greg Steeber can answer questions regarding these. (Dawn Kranz)



STEWARDSHIP

We are grateful to the Faith Lutheran Church community and thankful to God for generosity in these trying times. Our treasurer reports that contributions for January to March were slightly above budget but April has slipped down by about 20%. We still have good reserves and also our expenses are slightly down.

Worship is really different these days. We are not in the same physical space but we do gather around the same scripture and hear our pastor preach the Good News online. We receive the sacraments which sustains us and the work of our church continues. People continue to help their neighbors, those in need and care for creation. Please note the summary of the recent survey included in this newsletter. FLC has 15 ministry groups doing amazing things for our church and in our community. Additionally, note the report on the dining hall and connected assembly hall at the Tumaini secondary school in Tanzania. This provides opportunity for up to 200 students to eat in sanitary conditions. Together with our synod, FLC

has directly supported this. There are many other ways the people of Faith make a difference.

As we continue to navigate changes we never could have imagined, we need to consider what it means to be church. What is working in this “new normal” that didn’t happen before? What is God calling us to be at this time? What can we learn from this that impacts our ability to witness the love of Jesus? How do we live out our mission:

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?

The ministries of FLC are inspired by its members and supported by the community. Your financial support continues to be integral to our future as faith partners in sharing God’s love. Please remember to share financial resources as you are able in these difficult times.

WORSHIP A reminder to pick up a hymnal from the fellowship hall if you want to sing with the congregation on Sunday mornings when FLC worships online.

COMMUNICATION The Church Council is checking in with members. This is something each of us could be doing. Concern and love is so appreciated.

Summary of Strategic Planning Survey – 2020

Strategic planning in 2017 identified worship, community (outreach) and social justice as strengths of the FLC community. Areas for growth were identified as youth participation and leadership, stewardship and community building within the congregation.

Responses to the 2020 survey indicate similar themes remain strong:

- Reaching out to the Leavenworth community continues to be important. This includes sharing the Good News and providing for needs and general interests in the community.
- Immigration issues, foreign policy discussion, earth care and social justice should be expanded.
- Many comments about wanting more youth participation and family opportunities in general for congregation and community.

New themes emerging in the 2020 survey:

- Strong support for securing a parsonage and tending to deferred maintenance.
- In general, groups and individuals seemed to identify ways a connecting space could be beneficial but were concerned about financial commitments.

General observations:

1. Fifteen ministry groups completed the questionnaire. Five of the groups have to do with church life. These include: Church Council, Choir, Stewardship Team, Worship and Music Committee and Altar Guild. Ten of the groups include participants who are not part of our regular worshipping community. These include: Book Study, Earth Stewardship, Great Decisions, Immigration Justice, Knit Wits, Lectio Divina, Listening for God, Artists Way, Artists Way Writer's Group. There are already twice as many ministry groups doing community outreach.
2. In addition to the fifteen ministry groups responding to the survey, fourteen individuals responded to the survey. A number of the ministry group questionnaires were completed without a group conversation.
3. The strategic planning in 2017 had broad input via a number of home dinner gatherings over the course of spring and summer. Information from these gatherings were used as the basis for the December 2017 planning retreat attended by approximately 35 people.

Good News! Tumaini Secondary School Assembly Hall Nears Completion



In 2009 our friends in the Ulanga Kilombero Diocese of Tanzania began an audacious project—the building of a large dining hall and connected assembly hall at the Tumaini secondary school. For 12 long years the Northwest Intermountain Synod has partnered with the UKD to bring this project to fruition. The walls you see in this photo now have a stucco exterior, a roof, a floor, and wind vents in the big open spaces. Synod Council just voted to provide the funds needed for completion of assembly hall construction, such as wiring, paint, and furnishings. This timing is especially important, because the school needs a large space adequate for proctoring national exams. MaryCarol Nelson, Margaret Neighbors, and Karen Strom visited in 2010 as the walls were under construction. Lisa Therrell was there in 2018 for the first meal served in the completed dining hall. The 2020 synod trip to Tanzania is now postponed to 2021, but we eagerly await a final celebration of this project. The Women of the ELCA in our synod provide ten scholarships for girls attending this school, and as of 2020, Faith Lutheran is providing an additional scholarship. We work bega kwa bega, shoulder-to-shoulder, and are blessed by this friendship.

ABOUT US

We want to hear how things are going for each of FLC members and friends. Please email schramm@nwi.net. Thank you!

- A parade of cars drove through **Alan Whittemore's** property on April 18 to say goodbye before he moved to Seattle on April 20. He will put his house up for sale at a later date. Alan, we wish you well and are grateful to God that you were part of our community at Faith. Peace & love. **Alan's Seattle address is 4123 California Ave, S.W. #303 Seattle 98116 His phone is 206-387-8212**
- **Carol and Don Hurst** made it back the end of March from their trip to New Zealand. "Just in time," Carol said. We are grateful for their safety.
- **Zona McKinzie is not moving.** She has made the decision to remain in her home in Leavenworth. Yeah!
- A lovely, spring painting by **Dawn Kranz** was chosen to represent the Apple Blossom Festival even though the festival has been postponed.
- Please continue to pray for **Dick and Rosaleen** as Dick continues to struggle with health issues at his daughter's home in Paulsbo.

REGARDING THE PANDEMIC

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.

But –

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and gray and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number through the
neighborhood -
So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless, the
sick, the weary.

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting.
All over the world people are looking at their neighbors in a
new way.

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality.

To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear. But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation. But there does not have to be
loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying. But there does not have to be
meanness.
Yes there is sickness. But there does not have to be disease
of the soul.
Yes there is even death. But there can always be a rebirth
of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic.

The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,

And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

Brother Richard Hendrick
March 13th 2020

AS YOU GO TO REST

One more day to serve
Once more hour to love,
One more minute to praise

For this day I am grateful.
If I awaken in the morning sun.

I am grateful.
Do not let the sun go down on your anger. Since
we brought nothing into this world, everything is
gift
List your blessings. Follow your dreams.
(Mary Kowaski OSB)

