



Life of Faith

September 2021

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From Pastor Nancy.....

Patience isn't a practice that comes to mind when I think PANDEMIC! We live in a culture that values instant gratification; we expect to get results quickly. In addition, having no control over our circumstances is frustrating. People are suffering and there seems to be no end in sight. The Psalmist reminds us-- "I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined his ear to me and heard my cry." There are words of advice for us to navigate our circumstances: "Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be PATIENT in suffering, persevere in prayer." [Romans 12: 11-12]

At this time, Patience suffers along with her sister, Gratitude. Despite the unpleasant battles over masks, vaccines, and political agendas, there have been many blessings during these past months. It would be negligent to overlook the gardens that have sprung up in new places, neighbors connecting with each other, worshipping God in a magnificent outdoor cathedral. "...and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." [Colossians 16b-17]

God bless you.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.: Outdoor worship

Sept. 9, 6:30 p.m.: Church Council

Sept. 12, after worship: Church cleaning celebration



Our synod has designated Sept. 12 *God's Work, Our Hands* Sunday, a day to focus on service. The Faith congregation will be putting our hands to the care of our sanctuary, preparing it for our eventual return to indoor worship. We invite you to join us after church for coffee, fellowship and a cleaning celebration. Work clothes and your favorite cleaning tools welcome!

Reflections on the Pandemic by Danny Thomassen



I was asked by Peter Spiegel to think about my spiritual practices during COVID and possibly how my practices may have changed over time and how they have helped me through difficult times and moved me to hear God. WOW!

It has been almost a year and half since COVID landed on our doorsteps. I remember in early March 2020 when members of our family were going to attend a school play with my grandson on stage. We had intense debate whether we should attend or whether he should even be allowed to participate in the play? If we do go should we stand against the side wall or move our folding chairs to the back of the auditorium away from the mass audience? This was pre-masking and social distancing was in its infancy of becoming the new social standard. There was so much confusion, uncertainty and even fear of our society running rampant and falling apart. As time continued, cases were rising and Washington State went into lockdown threatening the extinction of businesses, jobs, and many families' security. In many ways I felt powerless, isolated and afraid for the future. I wanted to do something proactive and positive to make myself feel better about our new circumstances. How does the average person help and support a community in crisis with imperfect confusing polarizing social media information? Can a creative person really think outside the box when the standards of normal social conduct are turned upside down with options that may save your life or even take it away?

I found that God's word, interactions with my Faith Lutheran community and my wife, the

retired Registered Nurse, helped me to make some gradual transitions. Like many married couples we had our share of verbal disputes regarding lifestyle with COVID; however she always reflected with a focus on the science and her persistent arguments seemed to connect with reality for me on the issues. She had seen other pandemics working in the hospital for over 32 years and her experiences provided me the learning curve to better understand our current crisis. Solid reliable earthly knowledge is important and powerful.

God has given all of us the capacity to influence our own destinies'. God is always with us; He is the comforter and our strength; that is a constant reliable support. There were worries of course. Our two sons and daughter's-in-law all work to support our five grandchildren. What will happen with the family structures and security if they are unable to continue to bring in an income? Clearly, COVID has a different impact on all of us depending on our personal circumstances. My wife and I have secure income *without* the challenges of COVID in the work place and a roof over our heads. What will happen to our children if they are unable to meet the mortgage payment, need to find another occupation or are infected with the COVID disease? As COVID pulses through the core of our lives, what helps me is to consider the interconnectedness of God, nature and human life. I have developed a greater appreciation for all the simple wonderful things in the world; this beautiful creation that God has provided for all creatures. That is when I *listen for God* and He gives me peace. All we really have is our faith, our daily spiritual connections and the promises of God. Beyond that, so be it; His will be done.



CHURCH COUNCIL 8/19/2021 (Next meeting: 9/9/2021, 6:30 p.m.)

- Pr. Nancy has found the parsonage yard to be ideal for ministry, many visits with many people.
- New Sunday School materials have been ordered.
- Sail classes are taking place at Faith twice weekly.
- New landscapers, Emmanuel and Gabriel, have been hired to mow the lawn and maintain the grounds.
- A new LGBTQ banner has been purchased to display at church.
- The newly hired bookkeeper, Tricia Cook, was introduced to the council.
- On September 12, "God's work, our hands" day, Council suggests a church clean up day to prepare the inside of the church for indoor worship.
- Pr Nancy would like to see the directory updated.
- Lisa Therrell is working on the Food Pantry project. The boxes have been painted but not yet placed.
- There has been a slow decline in giving with balances lower than budgeted this year. There is a decrease of \$6000 in giving from last year. Reserve savings are stable.
- With the change in office staff, new arrangements for signing checks were approved.
- Greg Steeber was approved for the position of Controller for Finances.
- It was suggested that a card with instructions for online giving be placed near the collection plate.
- Major building projects have been postponed until Fall: church entrance grate and others.
- Worship start time will remain 9:00 a.m. through the summer and will continue outside, weather permitting, until October 3. Council will ask the Worship Committee to consider indoor services starting October 3. Masks would need to be required for Covid protections.
- Connie will make up a cleaning duties list.
- Localtel is working on upgrading the internet connection which will hopefully provide faster connection throughout the church campus.
- Judy Derpack is working on redistributing the playground equipment from the back of the church. She has also led the effort to acquire back to school supplies for community children through donations from the Faith community.
- Next Council meeting will be September 9 at 6:30 p.m. in person at Faith

*After a long search, we are happy to have a new bookkeeper with us at Faith. Tricia Cook and Pastor Nancy are neighbors and became acquainted through their daily dog-walking. She comes to us with a wealth of experience and is already settling in to her part-time position.
Welcome, Tricia. We're glad you're here!*

Life in an Intensive Care Unit during COVID-19...

Faith Lutheran member, Greta Steeber, is shown here in a photo from an Oregon Public Broadcasting story about life in the Intensive Care Unit at Oregon Health & Science University. Click here for the full article <https://www.opb.org/article/2021/08/20/inside-osu-icu-nurses-doctors-fight-against-covid-19-surge/>



Dear Faith Lutheran Church friends,
Laurie Peek and I are your self- appointed card senders. If you know of anyone who would appreciate a connection by snail mail card, please send their names to me (jkdseattle@gmail.com) and I will do my best to send get well, special celebrations greetings, or sympathy cards.
Thank you for your assistance,
Judy Derpack

The Cascade School District and Judy Derpack extend thanks and gratitude for the generous gifts from Faith Lutheran to the school supply drive. A total of \$300.00 was collected for purchases and several bags of supplies were dropped off at church.

**There is no POWER greater than a community
That cares about its children and families.**



September Birthdays

2 Karen Haddon
8 Greta Steeber
9 William Cassayre

11 Georgia Tull
23 John Agnew
26 Adam Miller

26 Stella Johnson
27 Lorna Ulstrom
27 Chuck Gibbs

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 **September 24** for the October issue.

