



Life of Faith

APRIL 2025

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From our president....

Spring comes! In the season of Lent the snow is melting, the days are brighter, and my thoughts have turned towards the future. This is a fantastic church council, we have accomplished many things and solved problems one after another during the past years. This council is resilient and versatile.

I am asking the council and this congregation for something different in the coming months. Dreamers and Visionaries needed! We know deeply and clearly who we have been as a church. We have a good sense, I think, of who we are, but the crystal ball seems cloudy looking into the future. Where would we like to be in 5 years? Where should we be? How much change is healthy, how much adherence to our routines and current culture is critical to preserve Faith Lutheran as we have known it? What possibilities exist, unseen?

I have spoken this week with Pastor Ann Bjorkland about the Listening Team project. There will be 3 opportunities for us to be involved. Pastor Ann will plan 2 in person sessions, there will then be a Zoom meeting for those that couldn't attend, and finally written responses to the 5 questions the team poses will be accepted. These are all forward looking questions, and they are intended to guide us.

I asked Pr. Phil Misner, Assistant to the Bishop, directly by phone earlier in the month if he felt that we were a troubled congregation. He paused, he took time to answer well, and I treasure his reply, "Faith is perfectly imperfect", he said.

As are we all. Peace be with you.

Karl Kranz



APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 6: Pr. Dave Haven, Congregation review of Ministry Site Profile after worship.



Wednesdays in Lent

- 5:30 Bible study *Eating our way Through Luke*
- 6:00 Soup Supper
- 6:30 Quiet Time in Sanctuary
- 7:00 Holden Evening Prayer

HOLY WEEK

April 13: Palm Sunday, Pr. Barbara Rossing, 9:30 a.m.

April 17: Maundy Thursday, Pr. Liv Larson Andrews, 7:00 p.m.

April 18: Good Friday

12:00 noon Stations of the Cross Walk (details below)

7:00 p.m., Good Friday service at church

April 19: Easter Vigil, 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.

April 20: EASTER SUNDAY

9:30 a.m., Pr. Liv Larson Andrews, followed by potluck brunch*,

2:00 p.m., Service at Mountain Meadows



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

Sunday, April 27: Earth Day Service, Pr. Barbara Rossing



Good Friday Cross Walk: Lamenting Jesus' Suffering and Injustice Today

Our noon-hour Good Friday Walk begins outside City Hall at noon on April 18. The one-hour solemn walk will carry the cross on a pilgrimage connecting traditional Stations of the Cross with suffering and injustice today. At each station we will read a brief scripture, pray, sing and reflect on how Jesus' passion connects us with today's world.

The first station, "Pilate Condemns Jesus to Death" will be led by our Immigration Justice group, reading scripture about Jesus' arrest and praying for those detained and deported today. Crossing Highway 2 and continuing down the stairs to Front Street, we will remember how "Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry the Cross." We will continue down 8th Street to the Hospital, for "Jesus Fall for the Second Time," hearing from medical professionals about how Medicaid cuts, medical debt, addictions and other crises cause people to fall today. Overlooking the river, Earth Stewardship will lead the sixth station, "Jesus is Nailed to the Tree," lamenting how God's trees and all creation are threatened by Forest Service job losses and roll-backs of protections for our environment.

The walk route will total less than a mile, ending back at City Hall before 1 p.m. All are welcome. If your group would like to lead one of the stations, or lead prayers or singing, please contact Pastor Barbara Rossing.

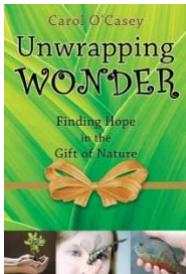


Welcome Rev. Liv Larson Andrews....



We are thrilled to welcome Pr. Liv Larson Andrews as one of our worship leaders during Holy Week. Liv is the Director of Evangelical Mission of the Northwest Intermountain Synod of the ELCA. She is a pastor, writer and artist who lives in Spokane with her spouse and two children. Her work in parish ministry, community building and worship renewal connects liturgical spirituality with social justice. She loves sharing meals with others and remembering her baptism by being near the Spokane river. She studied at Grunewald Guild as part of her seminary education at Lutheran School of Theology Chicago and has served on the Grunewald Guild board.

WEEKLY HAPPENINGS / MONTHLY MEETINGS



BOOK GROUP: Each Tuesday, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Current book is *Unwrapping Wonder* by Carol O'Casey. Contact Margaret Neighbors (509) 387-0883 for information.

SAIL: (Staying Active and Independent for Life) Tuesday and Thursdays, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall. All seniors 65 and older are welcome to join this free program. Contact Connie Thomassen (509) 470-8212 for information.

KNITTING AND CRAFTS: April 2, 16, 30, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

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

CHURCH COUNCIL: April 24, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

IMMIGRATION/RACE AND JUSTICE: April 30, 6:00 p.m. Contact Alex 509-548-7012 for details.

EARTH STEWARDSHIP MOVIE NIGHT: April 27, 7:00 p.m.

EARTH STEWARDSHIP MEETING: April 29, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall



Retired pastors of our congregation are available to provide pastoral care whenever needed. Please reach out to Pastor John Schramm / 509-548-0404.

thank you

CALL COMMITTEE

The following persons were elected unanimously to serve as the Call Committee for a new pastor at a congregational meeting on March 9: Leesa Broker, Amy Carlson, Judy Huett-Harris, Karl Kranz, Eric Krumland, Barbara Rossing.

CHURCH COUNCIL March 2025



Treasurer's Report:

- Income: Giving was down during January and February. The budget is \$13,000 per month and we received \$11,000 and \$8700 respectively. Rent from the Tumwater and Benton St houses help. Currently, 50% of our giving units do so online.
- Expenses: Low without paying a pastor. Expect Capital Campaign pledges to be received.
- Due to better interest rates, \$20,000 was shifted from the property account to two CDs, \$10,000 each. It now will receive 4% instead of 2% interest.

Property Committee:

- The president subsumed the parsonage committee into the property committee creating fewer reports.
- Furnace at the parsonage had a bad relay on the interface. Alpine Air was called and is on it.
- Danny Thomassen has his red truck back and is willing to haul vegetation trash as needed.
- A new, sturdy back stoop on the Fellowship Hall was built by our president. Hurrah and Thank You!!

Worship Committee:

- Pr. Barbara Rossing has invited Pr. Liv Larsen-Andrews to take part in our Holy Week services. She will preach on Maundy Thursday, take part in the Good Friday Cross Walk, Easter Vigil and preach on Easter.
- Easter Sunday service is at 9:30, followed by a potluck. A 2:00 service at Mountain Meadows is planned.

Endowment Committee:

- Applications have been mailed out and are due March 31. There is \$5,500 available this year.

Old Business

- Establishing a Finance Committee is pending.
- Invite informal gatherings with the Methodists. Karl will inquire.
- Dinners for 5 or 6, planning and schedule. Karl will find organizers.
- Waiting for an Adult forum champion. Should we wait for new pastor?
- Deanne has organized a box of labeled keys in a new spare key box in church office. Thanks, Deanne! Karl will see to it that all necessary keys are locked in the key box.
- Fees for rental of Fellowship Hall for non-Faith members was established.

New Business:

- A Call Committee was elected and the Mission Site Profile (MSP) draft will be brought before the congregation on April 6.
- Reconfigure Council's agenda; less recitation and more room for creativity? Perhaps focus on our Mission/Vision, Goals and Energy!!
- Directory: The council agrees that if someone wants to remain in the directory, they should remain. A mock-up of the new directory will be available through Easter for people to check for accuracy.
- Church picnic early August either at Steeber's (river access) or Harris's (mountain views/great yard)
- Church retreat to develop a strategic plan. The MSP asks if we have a current one available.

Topic from Pastor's letter list to work on this month

- Pastor's office space. The location for this within the Fellowship Hall is being researched. The council agrees the space should not be shared with other office staff.
- Elder care team? Currently, there are those in our community with need. Some of our members already visit, drive, shop, etc. There is need to create a team of folks to help with this.
- Those with NWI email accounts are once again experiencing problems receiving church emails. Families that are having this issue are encouraged to establish a gmail account.

Next Council Meeting: April 24, 2025, 6:00 p.m.



Welcome new members!

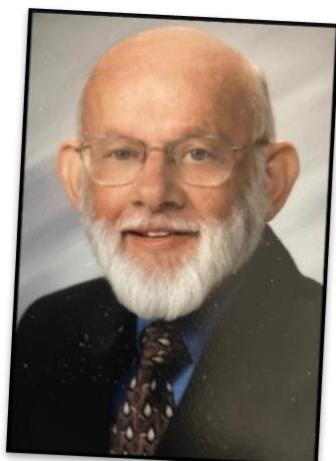
Pr. Cindy Carroll, Pr. Don Haven and Werner Jannsen were welcomed into membership at Faith during worship on March 16.

Cindy and Don transferred from Emanuel Lutheran in Dallas, Texas where Cindy served as Pastor from 2017 through 2021. Don also served as the Interim Senior Pastor at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Dallas from 2020 through 2021. They conducted several capital campaigns during their 6 years in Dallas after retiring from serving congregations in Sacramento, CA. They moved to Washington in 2022. Cindy served as a

frequent preacher and presider at Faith during a time we were without a pastor. Don is a regular participant with our music team playing trumpet and providing vocal leadership. Together, they led our congregation in the *Faith Moving Forward* capital campaign that allowed us to purchase a parsonage.

Werner first became a member of Faith 1983 when Carl Florea was serving as pastor. With strong administrative experience, Werner's skillset complimented Carl's and was soon hired as part-time administrator. When Carl left parish ministry, Werner was installed as "Lay Pastor" at the encouragement of retired (and admired) Pastor Fritz Norstad who was also a member of the congregation. This role lasted about nine months.

After many years of working at Sleeping Lady and a move for some time to Arizona, Werner is now at Wesley Bradley Park retirement community in Puyallup where his daughter Kristy and husband live nearby. His son Jeff and wife, Joanne live in Leavenworth. Werner is in good health but does not like to travel so enjoys connecting with Faith Lutheran virtually through worship.



New Directory for Faith Lutheran...



Dawn Kranz is collecting updates for a new directory that will be published soon. Please contact her at 509-679-1070 or dawn@nwi.net by Friday, April 4 with any phone number, email or address changes you may have. Additionally, please let her know if you do not want your number printed.

Earth Stewardship Group

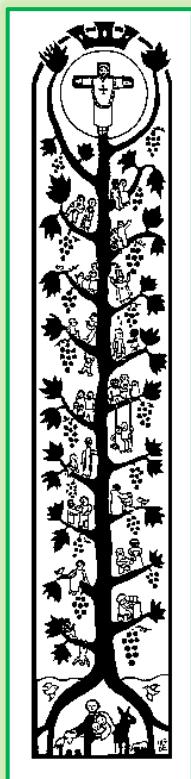
Current Planned Activities: Please mark your calendars and watch for details to come!

- **Earth Stewardship Movie/Documentaries Night:** A Movie Night is planned for April 27 in recognition of Earth Day. We will watch episodes from Amazon Prime's climate series entitled "Climate Next". This series explores activities of people around the world who are working together and making efforts to combat and solve climate change issues.
- **Waste Loop:** We are coordinating with Ariahna Jones, executive director, regarding a possible presentation at an Adult Forum on a future Sunday.
- **FLC's Low Emissions Sunday:** Back by popular demand, FLC's "Low Emissions Sunday" is scheduled for May 18. We have asked representatives of the EcoFaith Action Network to extend a challenge to other congregations in the synod to participate.
- **Garden Tour:** Following last fall's successful garden tour, another is planned for July 12.

Upcoming Lectures/ Webinars/ Resources/ Activities of Interest:

- **Barbara Rossing Lectures-** April 5, Healing Creation (3 lectures) at Our Savior's Lutheran in Everett, for the NW Washington Synod LIVE Project:<https://lutheransnw.org/events/healing-creation-sacred-hope-in-action/2025-04-05>
- **Lutherans Restoring Creation Earth Day Sermon, by Barbara Rossing-** available on video at <https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/register-for-2025-creation-care-centered-sermon/> This was featured in this week's NWIM Synod news.
- **Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest May 15-19, 2025.** The festival offers conservation field trips, and art and science workshops. Registration is now open. Several FLC members are leading various birding excursions and other associated activities.
<https://wenatcheeriverinstitute.org/bird-fest/>

* Note: Heather Murphy is Bird Fest's Artist Spotlight! <https://wenatcheeriverinstitute.org/bird-fest/title/2024-artist-spotlight-heather-murphy>



EcoFaith Action Network: The Synod Eco-Faith leadership team which includes Lisa Therrell and Barbara Rossing is making a video for the synod assembly regarding the work of the synod network.

Advocacy: The Leavenworth City Council tabled their decision on a possible City proclamation regarding 70 ft lighted cross on Tumwater Ridge and the property owner has withdrawn their permit application. We will continue to monitor the situation.

Recent Lectures/Forums/Activities of Interest

- Faith's Earth Stewardship Group participated with Dr. Jim Martin -Schramm in leading a very successful Virtual Workshop on Energy Rebates and Offers entitled "Save Money ... Power up Mission" under the sponsorship of the EcoFaith Action Network on February 25.
- National Faith + Climate Forum: This national webcast was streamed into the sanctuary on March 27 for all interested persons. Thousands of people of faith gathered in host locations, homes and offices throughout the country to explore how we can care for creation and take meaningful climate action. The hybrid event offered interactive sessions, inspiring keynotes, and practical resources to equip congregations to integrate climate care into faith practices and communities.

Next Meeting: April 29, 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



Affordable Housing Funding Advocacy in the Legislature

by Barbara Rossing

Mayor Carl Florea has been working for several years on an affordable housing funding stream for affordable housing in our community. This Washington State bill ESSB 5576 could help provide that funding, if it passes. The legislation would allow local jurisdictions to add an **optional 4% tax** on Short Term Rentals, to fund affordable housing. Owner-occupied short-term rentals would be exempt from the tax.

Carl drove to Olympia (leaving at 3 am Tuesday March 18) to testify in person. Zeke, Kurt Peterson and I attended the hearing on Zoom and each testified in favor of the bill with 90-second speeches. My speech stated that Faith Lutheran Church supports affordable housing. Representatives of the Washington State Association of Cities and even Expedia and VRBO all testified in favor because they know the importance of preserving communities. Mayor Florea says he is hopeful the bill will pass this year. "No guarantees, of course, but we are closer than we were last year. We are hopeful!"

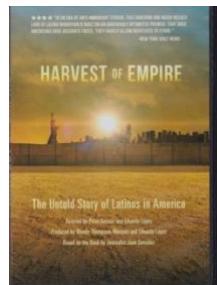


Announcement for the documentary “Harvest of Empire” submitted by Alex Schmidt

At a time of heated and divisive debate over immigration, this critically acclaimed documentary (1.5 hours) examines the direct connection between the long history of U.S. intervention in Latin America and the immigration crisis we face today.

Based on the ground breaking book by award-winning journalist Juan Gonzalez, "Harvest of Empire" takes an unflinching look at the role that the U.S military actions and corporate interests played in triggering unprecedented waves of migration from Central and Latin America. The film unveils a moving human story that is largely unknown to the great majority of citizens in the U.S.

Will be shown Sunday evening, April 6th at Camp Camrec
(<https://www.camrec.org> Brisa is Director) at 4 p.m. with bi-lingual discussion and delicious dinner afterwards. 8899 Little Chumstick Creek Rd. Leavenworth, 98826
(509) 548-7245. info@camrec.org



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ADVOCACY ACTION ALERT

From the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.....

Tell Congress you oppose the detention and separation of immigrant families.

The Trump administration has called for mass deportations of undocumented immigrants in the United States, recently [terminating historical restrictions](#) on immigration activity at places of worship, schools and hospitals. Mass deportations would have significant [emotional, health and financial tolls](#) on impacted immigrant families as well as the broader community. Congress is preparing to allocate billions for this directive.

This Action Alert is part of a Lenten Action Series, an opportunity to take advocacy action as part of your Lenten practice. Our baptismal calling to "serve all people," following the example of Christ, takes on urgent meaning as families across the nation face mounting challenges.

The book of Genesis underscores that "human beings are created 'in God's image'" (Genesis 1:27). The ELCA social policy resolution, "[Toward Just, Compassionate, and Humane Immigration Reform](#)," acknowledges the presence of undocumented immigrants. It advocates for both good governance to protect the nation and the just and humane enforcement of immigration laws. It guides the view of this church to prioritize human dignity while upholding the law.

Now is the time to act. Congress has moved quickly to authorize [hundreds of millions](#) in new funding for immigration detention, immigration agents, border wall construction and surveillance technology along the border and is poised to authorize [billions](#) more through budget reconciliation.

In addition to new spending to be utilized for mass detention and deportation, reconciliation opens the door to [cuts to hunger programs](#), [cuts to immigrant's limited eligibility for social services](#), and harmful [non-fiscally related immigration policy](#).

Act now to tell Congress you oppose the detention and separation of immigrant families. Customize your letter with your values and local experiences.

Thank you for your advocacy.

This LENTEN ACTION SERIES will give you opportunity to share your values and experiences with elected officials during the federal budget reconciliation process. Our baptismal calling to serve all people following the example of Jesus has urgent meaning as families across the nation face mounting challenges.

*This link provides easy-to-follow instructions to make your voice heard:
<https://give.elca.org/page/81003/action/1?chain>*

Immigration/Race Justice Group report from Alex Schmidt

Immigration/Race Justice Group (I/RJG)

Summary, March 19th, 2025 in a private home

Present: Five of our 8 members were present. Several were traveling. **Guest: Chelan County Sheriff Mike Morrison.**

Conversation with Sheriff Morrison: A very important and personal conversation was experienced over a delicious soup supper. Our purpose was to establish a relationship with the Sheriff and to better understand the work of our local police department and their interaction with our immigrant community. Sheriff Morrison spoke of his understanding of the “Keep Washington Working” legislation passed in 2019. This law prohibits local law enforcement agencies from coordinating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement(ICE) on civil Federal Immigration actions.

1. Education and Administration:

- a. Finances:** Our current CVB account was presented. This does not include three uncashed checks, one of \$168 (flyers); another to a community member for \$270 (passports); and to the Ephrata family whose father was deported (\$500).
- b.** Seventy five **packets** were printed for \$\$288 and most have been already distributed, mostly to a teacher and Principal of Cascade H.S. Fifty more have been printed for \$267 (more pages included).
- c.** No call back from **Taylor Caldwell** of the Echo. Sheriff Morrison said he knew the Wenatchee ICE agent in charge and would contact him to see if he could also come and visit with us.
- d. “Harvest of Empire: The Untold Story of Latinos in America”** is on for Sunday, April 6th, 4 p.m. with a discussion and potluck dinner afterwards. At **Camp Camrec**, near Plain. Another member will coordinate the IT details.

2. Direct Support:

A family whom we have assisted in the past has asked for help in securing passports for their children as their father is in significant risk of being deported. A check for \$270 will be given to the family.

3. Advocacy:

- a.** Members continue to be encouraged to access future WAISN (WA Immigration Solidarity Network) trainings on Know your Rights, Accompaniment, and Community Rapid Response. <https://waisn.org>
- b.** It has been suggested that those of our I/RJG who are able to participate in future Accompaniments and Rapid Responses download the **Signal App** so that we form a Lwth group for quick internal and secure communication in case of ICE activity.
- c. Alex** summarized a Wenatchee for Immigrant Justice (WIJ) meeting he attended in Lwth the previous evening. The purpose was to “connect” those immigrant advocates living in our Upper Valley. The WIJ organization was presented by Rachael Pashkowski who also provided WA Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN) materials for distribution.

4. Next Meeting: **Wednesday, April 30th, 6 p.m.** Call Alex 509.548.7012 for details.

Life of Faith...

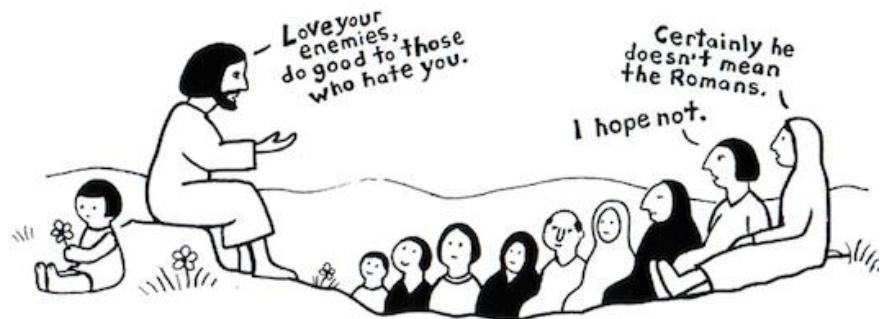


Thank you, Mara, Adam and Ellen
for the amazing Kings Cake...complete
with a hidden baby
Jesus...during our Mardi
Gras celebration!



Thank you
The Swamp Dusters !





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 by April 25 for the May issue.

