



Life of Faith

AUGUST 2025

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From our president....

Fate Faith and Fortune! I had intended to write about the excitement I feel, both my own and with the congregation about our new Pastor, Aaron Musser but fate intervened and I am off in a different direction.

Our comfortable secure lives can change in a moment when the fickle finger of fate points to us and sometimes it is a very abrupt turn of direction. The lump is a Cancer, or the CT scan reveals a disastrous unexpected change, a stroke takes the use of an arm and leg away from a vigorous farmer in an instant. Why? We scream aloud or silently.

How can this happen to a good and blameless person without fault of their own? When does our Saviour step in to save us?

The good news, the Fortune that finds each of us, is more subtle. It is all around us, like air, we forget to be grateful unless it disappears. I should not take having enough to eat for granted. I am wonderfully surrounded by family and I wake up snuggled with my loved one each morning. I enjoy the most amazing and supportive community, Thanks be to Faith, which carries us over the rough patches and gives us strength when the wheel turns!

Seize the Day

Karl Kranz





AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE with Pollinator Litany

August 3: Pr. Barbara Rossing

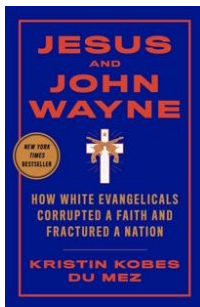
August 10: Pr. Barbara Rossing

August 17: Margaret Neighbors, preacher
Pr. Barbara Rossing, presider

August 24: Pr. Don Haven, preacher
Pr. Cindy Carroll, presider



WEEKLY HAPPENINGS / MONTHLY MEETINGS



BOOK GROUP: Each Tuesday, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Current book is *Jesus and John Wayne* by Kristin Kobes Du Mez. 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.

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

CHURCH COUNCIL: August 20, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

IMMIGRATION/RACE AND JUSTICE: August 13, 6:00 p.m. Contact Alex 509-548-7012

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER: With summer holiday schedules, there will be an earlier than usual deadline for the September newsletter. Please submit by August 18.



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

Gratitude for Communion: Altar Guild, Music, Newsletter and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

By Barbara Rossing



We are “like poets who help people reimagine their lives inside the story of God and Jesus.” This was how one of my seminary students described our shared ministry.

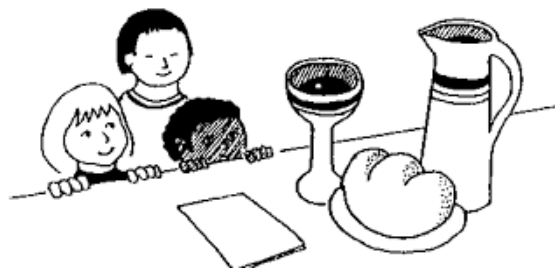
The biblical Greek word “*koinonia*” means communion, a multi-layered word encompassing communion in God, financial partnership, Eucharistic communion and everything in between. The first scholarly article I wrote for the Lutheran World Federation in 1998 was about “*koinonia*.”

At Faith Lutheran Church, Sacramental *koinonia* or communion happens each Sunday. I am grateful for the Altar Guild that provides Holy Communion—bread, wine, juice—so we can commune with one another and the whole creation. I am grateful for the musicians, the team led by Susan Butruille, who help us sing our lives inside the story of God and Jesus.

Communion means communication, starting with 2 Corinthians 13:13, “The grace of the Lord Jesus, the Love of God, and the *koinonia* (community) of the Holy Spirit be with you all”. It means communication within our congregation: Thanks to editor Mary Steeber for this newsletter that keeps us connected. Thanks to Danny Thomassen who prints copies for Mountain Meadows residents and others who wish.

Our congregation has been very blessed by our communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) both nationally and within the synod. Our new pastor studied at an ELCA college and at an ELCA seminary, funded in part by our congregation’s benevolence dollars. Financial contributions are part of communion, part of the *koinonia* we all share. The apostle Paul uses that same word *koinonia* in making a financial appeal to the Corinthian church, on behalf of others (2 Cor 8:4, 8:13). In gratitude and rejoicing, I hope Faith Lutheran might consider taking future steps in our budget to begin to increase our benevolence contribution to the ELCA until we reach 10% of our total budget. It would mean an additional \$6000 contribution annually to the ELCA. Watching the ELCA Churchwide Assembly online this week, it is impressive to learn more about the wonderful ministries in which we share.

We are a generous communion, reimaging our lives inside the story of God and Jesus—together, like poets. I am grateful for you all in this communion we share at Faith Lutheran Church.



Congregational Call Meeting

The Faith Lutheran Church of Leavenworth congregation met on July 20, 2025 to:

1. **Vote on the Call Committee's recommendation to call Aaron Musser as our next pastor**
2. **Vote on the Council approved compensation package**

There were 27 members present in-person and 4 participating online
Melanie McQuaig attended as the bishop's representative
Heidi Krumland and Dawn Kranz served as tellers



President Karl Kranz opened the meeting with prayer. Call Committee members Karl Kranz and Eric Krumland presented Aaron Musser as Candidate for Call. Barbara Rossing added additional comments regarding Aaron's competency of worship leadership and pastoral care.

The vote to call Aaron Musser as pastor of Faith Lutheran passed unanimously via written ballots and affirmative response from online participants: 31 yes, 0 no

The compensation package approved by the council was presented. Points of discussion included:

- This vote is not for a contract but rather the *Definition of Compensation and Responsibilities for Ministers of Work and Sacrament under Call*.
- The package was developed by President Karl Kranz and Treasurer Greg Steeber in consultation with the synod to ensure guidelines were met. It was reviewed and approved by Aaron and the Synod.
- 40 hours per week is boiler plate language used by the state to base sick-leave time granted. It can be changed as needed.
- The *Letter of Call* was read aloud as requested.
- It was noted that this vote was a spiritual pledge of what we would provide our pastor.
- "Is it enough to live in Leavenworth?" After discussion of the included benefits, it was determined to be adequate.
- Property tax exemption will start in 2026.

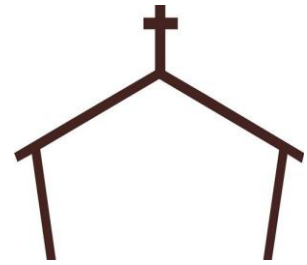
It was moved by Rosalyn Francis and seconded by Eric Krumland to accept the compensation package as presented. Motion passed with 30 yes votes and 0 no votes via written ballots and response from online participants.

Meeting closed with prayer.

Of note....

Aaron has accepted our Call to pastoral ministry at Faith Lutheran! We look forward to welcoming him to Leavenworth, to Faith Lutheran and into our shared ministry.

Church Council July 2025



Treasurer's Report

- June contributions were slightly higher and capital campaign pledges are being received on schedule. Expenses are down as we currently don't have a pastor. Two-thirds of the parsonage bridge-loan has been paid with two payments of \$20,000 each in the next two years remains.
- The City of Leavenworth has a general grant fund for nonprofits. We agreed to submit a request to fund Little Pantry, possibly \$3,000 or 4,000.
- Faith paid \$150 to be a Prost sponsor for Oktoberfest. It is good publicity and also includes 4 free tickets! Faith will sign up for ambassador program again. Would be fantastic to have new pastor participate.

Pastors Report

- Aaron Musser has accepted our Call! He arrives September 9, begins preaching on September 14 and will be installed September 28.
- Supply pastor Barbara Rossing suggests putting a nameplate on the current office to signal that it is the pastor's office until a new pastor's office is built. Rosalyn will order a nameplate. Discussion of perhaps moving some boxes out of the office to make room for our new pastor.
- Discussion of a reception for Pastor Musser's installation September 28 with Bishop Megan Manlove presiding.

Property Committee

- Nothing broke!
- An anonymous donor has generously committed \$10,000 for new flooring in the Fellowship Hall. It was decided to install half laminate and half industrial carpet with laminate in the section by the kitchen. Will now look at swatches and secure bids.
- A plan for possible pastor's office addition is posted recommending a 13'3" by 12' space. Still moving forward with planning.
- The Tumwater parsonage renters are requesting an extension to the end of August. Council agreed to keep current lease agreement which ends August 15. With advance notice, members are happy to help renters move out of space as they shared their struggle of health and other complications.

Old Business

- Dinners for 5 or 6, planning and schedule, Ellen Farley is interested in helping.
- Adult forum champion - Will have Aaron take that on after adjusting.
- Synod Listening sessions have been completed. There has been no follow-up to date.
- There will be a constitutional review at the meeting of the ELCA National Assembly in August so we will wait until after that to consider changes in our Constitution. We would like to consider allowing up to \$10,000 or a percentage of the annual budget, for expenditures without a congregational meeting.

New Business:

- Committee work. Phil Misner and Synod have excellent guidance in promoting efficiencies in the work of committees. Council will also request current committees to submit a statement that explains intended purpose, what they do and what they might need to move forward and thrive as a committee. These statements will be helpful for our new pastor and interested participants.
- Organizational Improvement Topic to work on this month. Pete- Discussed how to support new pastor. The Call Committee will support our new pastors time of transition for 3 months. Council will then recommend the development of a mutual ministry team for ongoing support.
- We talked about current structure for how things run at Faith Lutheran. Council agreed communication skills could be improved moving forward as things just 'get done' but who does what and when? Important to identify as we welcome new leadership.

Next Meeting: August 20 at 6:00pm

Immigration / Race and Justice Group (as received from Alex Schmidt) *Summary, July 16th at a private home*

Present: Seven members were able to participate and enjoy the lovely soup, bread, and wine! We missed the other three.

Mutual Support: *Significant opportunity was taken to update our personal and mutual stories since we last met..*

1. Administration/Education:

- a. **Current balance** has been reconciled and all checks are accounted for.
- b. **Rapid Response Signal Group** has been established and tested. We have 7 participants ready to respond as they are able.
- c. I/RJG members are reminded to fill out their WA Immigration Solidarity Network (WAISN) **Volunteer Agreement Form**.
- d. Additional **Family Safety Security** packets will be given to the Cupboard and WA State University Extension Office, plus a local business that is immigrant owned.

2. Direct Support:

- a. No new requests for assistance were presented.
- b. Several members reflected on the unfortunate discrimination that exists between immigrants of various Central American countries in both housekeeping jobs and packing sheds.
- c. One of those attending inquired about mental health care. Given the current national situation, immigrants are experiencing significant fear and anxiety with few resources available. She will call another member who will give her Parque Padrinos contact info as they may know of Spanish speaking resources available. Another member volunteer will also send the group a current list of Chelan County Resources.
- d. It was reported that all the **Migrant Programs** at Cascade School District have been eliminated due to Federal cuts in spending. She will continue working with migrant students. Some recent graduates will be called to check on their well-being.

3. Advocacy:

Considerable time was spent at the beginning of our meeting to **rehearse and role play** the four different members of a Rapid Response Team and their interaction with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). These are briefly described below, all actions are within our constitutional rights:

First, a phone call must be received by one of us about a possible raid. Someone goes to verify the event. If actual, then the Lwth RR Signal Group is alerted and those who can will go as quickly as possible to the event. Four areas of RR Team responsibility:

- a. **ICE Liaison person:** Make contact with agents, requesting information on agent names, badge numbers, warrants, license plates, etc. and where detainee will be taken.
- b. **Videographer, close:** Without interfering, to record as much as possible the events taking place for possible future legal use.
- c. **Videographer, distant:** To get an overview of the situation and continue videoing if the close camera is taken.
- d. **Note Taker:** To observe and record as much information as possible, especially if there are civil rights violations or violence. Then at the end, a report is to be filed with WAISN.
- e. If four individuals are not available for the RR call, participants will have to double up on responsibilities.

4. Next meetings: Wednesdays, August 13th, 6 p.m. , September 17th, 6 p.m. Call Alex for details (509.548.7012)

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) update

from the Immigration / Race, Justice Group (I/RJG)

I/RJG would like to share the following statistics about ICE activities so far this year provided by the Washington Immigration Solidarity Network (WAISN):

- 131 detentions from January – April
- 140 detentions from May – June in 14 counties and 34 cities: 123 were individuals or small groups and 17 were from workplace raids.

These numbers clearly indicate increased ICE activity throughout our state. The Wenatchee World reports that so far this year 74% of detainees had NO prior criminal record, contrary to what was initially “intended” by the current administration.



“FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD”

Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) are gathering for the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, July 28–Aug. 2 in Phoenix, Ariz.

Meeting under the theme “For the Life of the World,” the assembly will participate in plenary discussions to make decisions about the work of this church. They will also spend time in worship and engage in various ways of theological reflection.

The triennial gathering — the highest legislative body of the denomination — is composed of an allocated 845 voting members, serving on behalf of the 2.7 million members of the ELCA. The ELCA’s 65 synods elect voting members to serve at churchwide assemblies.

Two key action items at the assembly are election of the ELCA’s presiding bishop and secretary. The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, the first female presiding bishop of the ELCA, was elected in 2013 and reelected to a second term in 2019. She will retire at the end of her current term. Deacon Sue Rothmeyer, elected secretary in 2019, will retire at the end of her current term.

Voting members will also consider:

- The proposed social statement *Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All* and its proposed implementing resolutions nationalism and the public role of rostered ministers in speaking about political issues.
- Proposed editorial changes to the social statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* in response to the memorial “Reconsideration of Social Statement on *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*,” which was approved by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly.
- Reception of the 2024 Lutheran-Orthodox [Common Statement on the Filioque](#). *Filioque* refers to the words “and the Son,” which divided the Eastern and Western churches when they were added to the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed in 1054.
- Proposals (known as memorials) from the ELCA’s 65 synods that address social justice issues and matters relating to the structure of the ELCA.
- Amendments to “Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA.”
- Budget proposals for fiscal years 2026, 2027 and 2028.

Faith Lutheran Church: 1963 – 1982

This is the fourth in a series of articles telling the history of Faith Lutheran Church, Leavenworth



1963 - 1965

Pr. and Mrs. Luther Cronrath came to Cashmere in 1959 and served both Grace Lutheran there and Faith in Leavenworth. Luther's parents, Pr. and Mrs. Herman Cronrath, retired in Cashmere, where they lived until 1983 or 1984.

According to Cashmere's booklet, *The Golden Years*, Pr. Luther was a capable pastor and an enthusiastic worker with young people. He is mentioned as an umpire for youth baseball games. Pr. Herman, though retired, seemed to tend duties in Leavenworth. Our records are a bit confusing as they often refer to "Pastor Cronrath" without designating which one. Both Cronraths were apparently well liked.

Middle 1960's to 1977

The last record of the Women's Society (which became American Lutheran Church Women, ALCW) is dated June 15, 1965. The meeting was held at the home of Pr. Cronrath in Cashmere. It is not known if it was Luther or Herman Cronrath.

Although there is no exact date, Faith was closed in these next years. "In the middle 1960's, an independent Lutheran pastor attempted to reactivate the Church but with no success" according to LIFE Survey, 1963. There is no record of who this pastor might have been – nor what is meant by an "independent Lutheran pastor."

In 1973, a group of younger people who had moved to Leavenworth became interested in reopening the church. Newell and Nancy Arnstson, Tom and Jan Pickett and Mr. and Mrs. William Lampe are remembered as being active participants in this effort.

A Leavenworth Echo article tells the story of the Church's reopening in 1974 with a full-time pastor, Arnis Ohaks. "Pr. Arne" had spent time at Holden Village and lived on East Leavenworth Rd. in Werner Janssen's house with his wife Sharon and young daughter, Sarah. A second daughter, Maren, was born in Leavenworth before they left in 1977.

1977 – Summer 1979

Pr. David Gedrose served as full-time pastor during these years. He was unmarried and a small apartment was rented and furnished for him on Pine St. The old Parish Hall was torn down and a much more attractive and convenient one was built and became the Fellowship Hall. Rummage sales run by the ACLW in the Hall were the beginnings of fund-raising activities. Faith participated in the "Saturday School of Theology" held at Camp Field, Leavenworth.

Fall 1980 – 1982

Many people remember Pr. Robert J. Hoem ("Pr. Bob") for his colorful and dramatic liturgical services as well as his talent as an organist and excellence as Bible teacher in his inspirational Thursday evening classes. As quoted in *The Golden Years*, Pr. Holm considered his major accomplishment at Cashmere and Leavenworth as centering on "liturgical development of worship and the strengthening of ecumenical relationships with the Roman Catholic and Episcopal traditions."

Information gathered here comes from a history written by Mary Schramm, likely for our 100th anniversary in 2009, and various notes provided by Leesa Broker. When and who gathered this historical information is unclear. Please let me or Karl Kranz know if you might have information to add or correct.



Earth Stewardship Garden Tour

July 12, 2025



Forest Prayers.....



The work of Faith member and artist, Heather Murphy, will be featured at the Leavenworth Library in an exhibition titled *Forest Prayers* from July 29 to September 5. Don't miss it!

Heather Murphy is a Leavenworth watercolorist and nature journalist. The "Forest Prayers" exhibit suits her well with 30 years as a forest Service wildlife biologist combined with her Walleye Cards naturalist notecard business since 1997. She has been an Artist-In-Residence for varying National Parks and local organizations. Forests and their beings influence her in her paintings and writings, whether high mountain scenes or conifer studies or birds using forests in migration. "For me, forests are like a cathedral, or a prayer".



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 August 18 for the September issue.