



Life of Faith

JANUARY 2025

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From our president....

It is a New Year with a fine coat of snow over our mountain world. Time for fresh thoughts, new directions and a mental review of the years that have passed. My old neighbor had stern advice for tourists as he was pulling their car out of a snowbank with his tractor. Rob would lean down and say, "If you are going to drive in the snow, you can only do one thing at a time. You can steer, or brake, or use the gas pedal, but if you do two or more of these actions at once, you're off the road!" Not bad advice for staying on the slippery road as a church facing change, actually.

Don Haven noted that we truly excelled as a church during the capital campaign with most everyone pulling hard in one direction. Perhaps we should focus on our direction for 2025 without trying to brake, steer and accelerate all at the same time. Where would you like to go?

Rosalyn came up with a grand description of our church- we are like an Octopus!!! Octopi have 8 independently intelligent limbs which can move in all directions. The arms can "see" colors though their eyes can't, an octopus can hold on tightly with one arm while another moves forward while yet another arm quests for food. They are all connected at the center, of course, where the main brain, eye, mouth and stomach live. What does it take to make an octopus move in one direction? What does a church need to move ahead?

May the New Year be blessed and wonderful for each of you.
God Bless,

Karl Kranz



JANUARY WORSHIP AND EVENT SCHEDULE



Saturday, January 4: Dia de los Reyes (3 Kings Day, or Epiphany)

Several members of FLC and our Immigration Race Justice Group have been planning for this 2nd Annual Dia de los Reyes celebration. It begins at Wenatchee River Institute for outdoor activities and gifts for children, then processes to the Festhalle for food and entertainment and from there to the Gazebo.

Dia de los Reyes 1:00 – 8:00 pm
Wenatchee River Institute – Festhalle - Gazebo
All are welcome to this joyful bi-cultural event!

Epiphany Sunday, January 5: Pr. Alex Schmidt

Saturday, January 11: Family movie night, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 12: Pr. Dave Haven

Adult Forum, 11:00 – 12:30: Vanessa Gutierrez, Director of NW Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP, Wenatchee office) will present NWIRP's work and how they are preparing for the new administration's policies which will greatly impact our neighbors and how FLC can collaborate.

Sunday, January 19: Pr. Barbara Rossing

Adult Forum, 11:00 – 12:30: FLC's Immigration/Race Justice Group (I/RJG) will present how immigrant families, our schools, and businesses can prepare for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids and how FLC can respond. Questions, contact Alex lxhappns@nwi.net.

Monday, January 20: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Sanctuary open 8:30 a.m. – noon (see pg. 7)

Sunday, January 26: Pr. Abby d'Ambruoso

Lunch potluck after church followed by 2025 Annual Meeting



Weekly Happenings / Monthly Meetings

BOOK GROUP: Each Tuesday, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Current book is *What's So Amazing About Grace?* by Philip Yancy. Next is *Saving Jesus from the Church: How to Stop Worshiping Christ and Start Following Jesus* by Robin Meyers. Anyone interested in joining the group, contact Margaret Neighbors (509) 387-0883.

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: January 8 and 22, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

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

CHURCH COUNCIL: January 23, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

IMMIGRATION/RACE AND JUSTICE: January 15, 6:00 p.m. Contact Alex Schmidt 509-548-7012 for details.

GREAT DECISIONS: January 19 and 26, 4:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall



Retired pastors of our congregation are available and want to provide pastoral care whenever needed. To connect, please reach out to Rev. John Schramm at 509-548-0404 for assistance.



- **February 1:** VALENTINE DECORATING AND GAMES, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- **March 4:** FAT TUESDAY / MARDI GRAS PARTY!

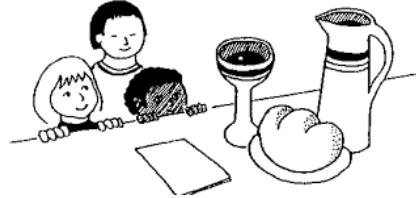
Contact Mara at maramerritt@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping with these events and the dates you are available

(Dates are subject to change. We will try to keep website updated)

CHURCH COUNCIL December 2024

Treasurer's Report

- Balances are stable and the Endowment Fund is \$3K – 4K higher. A Quickbooks error with Restricted Funds was resolved and it was discovered that there is some money available to the Little Pantry.
- Several annual gifts were received in November bringing the year-to-date giving to \$128,00. The budget is \$142,000 so still down but better than before.
- Pastor Eva continues to be paid to end of year.
- Deanne and Kelly have needed to work more hours so administrative costs are a bit higher.
- Kelly and Greg worked with the IRS to sort out a missing quarterly report from 2021.
- Renting Tumwater property - waiting on tenant. Asking \$2700 plus utilities.
- Money from the benevolence fund is being considered for a request from Mountain Meadows.
- There are many assumptions that need to be made in building a budget for the next year. Probably should budget about 6 months for a potential pastor.
- Benton property still has the same tenant and is working well.
- Half of the Council designated benevolence fund was given to Immigration Justice and half to the backpack ministry at the Methodist Church.



Property Committee

- Don Haven has purchased a new system for recording services online and will be functioning after a needed adapter is purchased. The new system will connect directly into the microphones so the sound should be improved substantially. Also discussed posting or clarifying hymns and order of service for those that are new or watching online
- Each of the church properties has a snowblower but ice has been a problem. People are coming to use church properties almost daily so those on snow duty need to check regularly. Renters will be in charge of own snow removal and cutting grass.
- Heat tape on gutters of Tumwater property have been repaired.

Worship Committee

- The Christmas Day service will be at Mountain Meadows and will be posted in the Echo.
- Bible study before Advent soup supper and service has been well received.

Parsonage Project Committee

- The search for a tenant continues.
- The gas fireplace is not working. After discussion of options it was decided to invest in repair and cleaning.

Old Business

- Establish a Finance Committee (President, Pastor, Treasurer, other) to work on money matters.
- Start discussion with leadership at our neighboring church about security and parking.
- Funding the Little Pantry for \$1000 in budget and then find other ways to donate was discussed.
- MEND Conflict resolution training: Bob Mark at MEND has suggested possible training w/ Chelan County Sheriff. Bob said our pantry is another good option for people who need it.
- Activist training-speakers- The website waisn.org has great resources. ICE may use form for public spaces but for private spaces (homes) it has to have a warrant signed by judge. Can film them, ask for badge number and question them but cannot get in their way or interfere.

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New Business

- Guest, Barbara Rossing, presented the idea of engaging a seminary intern at Faith. It would be a 9 month to one year commitment with an upfront fee of \$500 and \$1000 and then \$2,000 per month (with housing) so considerably less than a pastor. Internships provide opportunity for seminary students to engage innovative techniques they have been trained in and preach on a regular basis as they continue their formation of pastoral leadership. A youth group experience would be required but could possibly be done in Wenatchee. Barbara or pastor in nearby area would need to serve as supervisor. Intern applications are due at the end of January. Interviews to discern best fits begin in February and internships typically begin in June.
- Dinners for 5 or 6, planning and schedule (skipped for next time)
- Internet security, newsletter, youth photos (skipped for next time)
- Adult forum champion (skipped for next time)
- Open church for Inauguration Day - Celebrate MLK day - open from 8:30-12:00 p.m. to pray, listen to flute and light a candle.
- Support for Immigration Justice group is not currently in operational budget.
- Pulpit supply is scheduled through February. Thank you, Barbara Rossing!
- Barbara, Alex, Carl Florea and Karl Kranz have covered home visits and pastoral care for congregation. John Schramm is contact person and does phone visits.

Council considerations as we seek pastoral leadership:

Our church- family model- research?

New ideas?

Interim?

Call Committee - skipped for next time

Intern?

Council Retreat? Not scheduled but will look

Sabbatical site?

over MSP

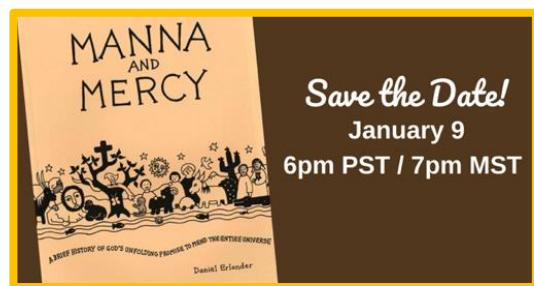
Use our resources for 6 months and regain our balance?

Next Meeting: January 23, 6:00 p.m.



From the NW Intermountain Synod

A book study series on Dan Erlander's classic *Manna and Mercy* will be led by the Director for Evangelical Mission in the Northwest Intermountain Synod, Pastor Liv Larson Andrews, via zoom beginning January 9 at 6:00 p.m. and continue each Thursday until the beginning of Lent.



Watch Pastor Liv's promo video:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/MvwwTLZyGG4?feature=shared>



Immigration/Race Justice Group December 2024

*The Immigration/Race Justice Group endeavors to accompany and provide support for our immigrant community through **Education, Direct Service, and Advocacy**.*

Education:

- Finances. Our current bank account was reviewed. An application for a \$500 endowment grant from Advent Lutheran in Spokane was received and a member will fill it out and submit.
- A member spoke of two books he will be reading that may be of interest and support during these times: *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor and *Complicity in the Holocaust: Churches and Universities in Nazi Germany* by Robert Erickson.

Direct Service:

- English Literacy Classes: P-D Library on Tuesdays 6-7:30 p.m.
- Citizenship Classes: Thursdays at the P-D library, 4:30-6:00 p.m. 2 -3 students currently participating
- An immigrant family we have helped in the past has again requested help with rent. Discussion was undertaken as to how to respond to these “frequent” requests. The group decided to grant \$400 explaining that we may no longer be able to help her due to the needs of other families.
- Driver’s Education: A high school teacher member provided for us the applications of eight students (one late addition) seeking financial assistance with Driver’s Education for the spring/fall quarters which now costs \$550 per student. Since three will be enrolling in the fall, it was decided to grant five of them \$1,450 according to the need expressed in their application. Later in the year we will consider the other three students.

Advocacy:

- Several I/RJG members plus a FLC member were able to participate in a WAISN Zoom training on Community Rapid Response. Hopefully more trainings can be accessed.
- Considerable time was spent on how the I/RJG can better prepare for the possibilities of increased ICE activity in our valley. Areas of concern would be: accompaniment, rapid response, deportation defense and know your rights. In addition, how might Faith Lutheran and our school district become prepared for these policy changes.

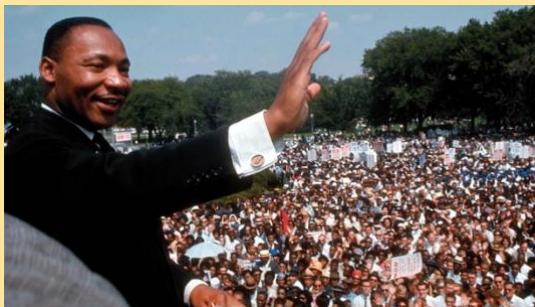
Learn more!

Sunday morning information forums
January 12 and 19 - All are invited
See page 2 for details

Next meeting:

- Wednesday, January 15, 6:00 p.m. Call Alex for details.

Martin Luther King (MLK), Jr. Day - 20 January 2025



I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.

—From MLK Nobel Peace Prize speech in 1964, Oslo.

FLC will open its sanctuary doors from 8:30 a.m. until noon on Monday, January 20, 2025, for an MLK vigil.

Come and light a candle, say a prayer or two, meditate, write, draw, sit quietly, hear some alto flute music and some MLK readings [bring a favorite and share] There is no planned liturgy or service, just open doors and welcome to all, a time to be together. Come and go as you need. Contact Amy Carlson (548-0606) with any questions.



Did you know....

A Donor Advised Fund (DAF) is like a charitable savings or investment account. It provides more time to be thoughtful about giving, harnesses the market to enhance charitable donations and ends the hassle of keeping a pile of donation receipts for tax purposes.



It works by establishing a fund with the ELCA Foundation using cash, appreciated securities or even complex assets like real estate or business interests. When the DAF is funded, you can recommend one-time or ongoing grants from the fund to a qualified nonprofit. They call it "Your Amazing Charitable Savings Account". Learn more here:

<https://foundation.elca.org/daf-charitable-savings-account>



Faith Lutheran has received multiple \$250 grants through Trivent Action Teams over the years. Most recently, these grants have supported our Little Free Pantry and family game, lefse making and pizza night. Another grant has been given for supplies for upcoming family nights in the new year.

This year marks 10 years since Thrivent launched the Action Teams program and to date has led 1.2 million projects, engaging more than 16 million volunteers and raised more than \$1.9 billion to support causes they care about. Thank you, Thrivent! Learn more at:

<https://www.thrivent.com/insights/magazine/winter-2024/celebrating-10-years-of-thrivent-action-teams>

Great Decisions Coming January 19!

FLC will again host Great Decisions beginning January 19 at 4:00 p.m. with the Famous Annual International Potluck. Sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association (FPA) in New York City, the nine-part foreign policy discussion series begins with *American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads* on January 26, 4:00 - 6:00. Other topics include climate change, NATO, artificial intelligence and Gaza. To participate, order a briefing book through FPA at www.fpa.org. Cost \$35 plus shipping and a donation to Great Decisions and FLC to total \$50.00. For more information, contact Susan Butruille at susanbutruille@gmail.com or 509-630-6488.



A message from the editors of Living Lutheran...

Print is coming back

Last year Living Lutheran ceased as a print publication and continued as a digital-only service because of financial constraints. Running a monthly publication grew too expensive during a time of consolidated resources and shrinking readership. Since then, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and staff have heard many shared concerns about members who don't have access to computers or don't read content online for various reasons.

We heard you—and listened. At the request of Bishop Eaton, we have found a way to bring back the magazine's print publication. Beginning in 2025, Living Lutheran will again appear in your mailboxes with four issues a year (spring, summer, winter and fall). The cost for one year will be \$19.95 for an individual subscription and \$17 per year/per subscriber for a congregation group plan (minimum 10 copies).



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT FAITH LUTHERAN 2024



Calendars and Daily devotions gifted to all



Thank you, Reed and Amy Carlson, for imagining and creating the beautiful Advent logs for households in our Faith community.



The time of waiting was marked by lighting a candle each week and watching the Holy Family and other characters gradually approach the empty stable.....





Midweek soup suppers with Bible study and worship



The “punting” musician team putting heads together for Christmas worship



Children's sermons and Lefse making.....





**Christmas
Eve at Faith**



**Christmas Day at Mountain
Meadows**



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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 January 24 or the February issue.

