



Life of Faith

JULY 2025

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From our president.....

This summer I have been thinking about Backbones. Not as a collection of vertebra, discs and nerves generating lumbago, sciatica and MRIs, but as a structural component. Backbones fight gravity, generate posture, convey nerve impulses from the brain to the limbs and sensory signals from nerves back to the brain. They are sturdy but flexible, can lift V8 engine blocks or do yoga and dance, apparently defying gravity.

You, the reader, have a backbone. I have a backbone. And so does Faith Lutheran. This letter is to celebrate, congratulate and share thanks with those who form the backbone of our church. You know who you are, dear people. Some are out front leading the charge, some quietly and tirelessly labor behind the scenes and below the surface. Some lift and carry, some bring their muse with them to church. Some commune with technology, some batter technology into compliance. Quiet meetings communicate between the other parts of Faith like nerve signals and Big Red periodically roars into action like a big bicep! I give thanks and am often impressed by that which supports us. There is always an opportunity to improve posture, of course!

For years, work called me, time was short and I was like the little toe on the left foot of the church. I now greatly enjoy being connected to this strong spine and I know what I was missing when I wasn't part of the body of Christ.

Happy Solstice! May Summer bring us all joy.

Karl Kranz

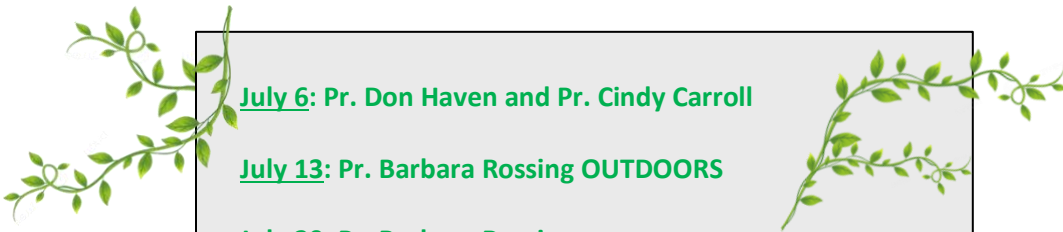
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Don't forget our Picnic this next Sunday, June 29, after church!

Bratwurst will be provided. Please bring some kind of side, salad or dessert. In addition to enjoying a mid-summer picnic together, we will have opportunity to meet a pastoral candidate.

JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



July 6: Pr. Don Haven and Pr. Cindy Carroll

July 13: Pr. Barbara Rossing OUTDOORS

July 20: Pr. Barbara Rossing

July 27: Andy Seikel, preacher / Pr. Rossing, presiding.

Take special note... CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER WORSHIP:
tentatively scheduled to vote on a Call to a new pastor.

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.

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

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

IMMIGRATION/RACE AND JUSTICE: July 16, 6:00 p.m. Contact Alex 509-548-7012 for details.



Garden Tour

Please join us for the second annual Faith Lutheran Church Garden Tour on Saturday July 12 from 9:00 AM to noon, sponsored by the Earth Stewardship group.

We plan to visit a total of four to five gardens in the Leavenworth area, to see flower, pollinator, and vegetable gardens. We will meet at the Church at 9:00 am and process from there. Carpooling is available. We will start with a visit to the Kranz garden on Eagle Creek Road, where we will also hear a brief discussion on composting. We will then visit 2 or 3 gardens in Leavenworth and end the tour at the Huett-Harris garden (10150 Suncrest Drive) at noon where snacks and refreshments will be provided. We hope to see you there!

Gratitude for Faith Lutheran Property Committee

by Barbara Rossing

I was hiking with Greg Steeber on Icicle Ridge when he got a phone call, "Someone needs to let Alpine Aire into the church." I arrived at the church at 10:00 that morning, to find that Karl Kranz already had not only met with Alpine Aire about the heat pump in the sanctuary, but Karl was now standing on a table in the Fellowship Hall changing lightbulbs in the overhead fluorescent light fixture!

I tell this story just to say: Our Faith Lutheran Property Committee is amazing. We are fortunate to have a team of lay leaders who care about our buildings, about fixing things and who step up for doing serious maintenance, rehab and repair work. The three who are currently most involved are Karl Kranz, Greg Harris and Greg Steeber.

Some of the amazing projects this team has shouldered, in addition to fixing up the parsonage, are listed in the Ministry Site Profile our pastoral candidates receive: "new foundation protection, new metal roofs on both the sanctuary and the fellowship hall, exterior painting, heat pump upgrade for both buildings, new hybrid water heater installation and sewer line repair." Greg Harris tells about our heat pumps and water heater in a video for the synod about energy conservation, February 25, at minute 25—a webinar led by Jim Martin-Schramm: [EcoFaith Energy Workshop](#) Passcode: DV3NdYc%



We might also add the new bike rack, the new back step outside the kitchen, new combination locks on the parish hall, new LED light bulb installed very high up in the sanctuary, irrigation system maintenance.... and the list goes on and on and on!

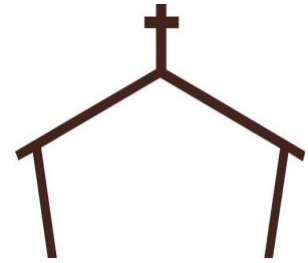
On the ELCA Clergy Facebook page, many pastors lament that they have to worry about their churches' aging boilers, water heaters, plaster repairs and so many property concerns—because they do not have such a skilled and dedicated property committee to take charge. We are fortunate to have a great Property Committee that leads this important ministry work.

Please sign up to help by mowing the grass this summer and other tasks

Thank you, Property Committee!



Church Council June 2025



Treasurer's Report:

- The Free Little Pantry received \$1000 from a Synod "SHARE" grant
- Contributions continue but still short \$15,000 through May.
- Rental income from our two houses helps but once we get a pastor, the Tumwater rent will drop away.
- Expenses were low in May

Pastor's Report:

- Two funerals this month for our beloved Karen Strom and John Butruille. Barbara is bringing a few of Karen's ashes up to Holden Village to sprinkle. Amen, Karen. The funeral for John was moving, including talks from his grandchildren and a wonderful slide presentation of John's life, collated by son Frank. Wife, Susan, played a haunting prelude.
- John Schramm continues to be point person for pastoral care.
- Pr. Rossing presented an opportunity to get involved in Native American concerns by introducing us to the P'squosa River Council and their deliberation over salmon. They will meet October 8 at Fort Okanogan.
- Pulpit supply now will be mostly local clergy or lay persons.

Property Committee:

- An old irrigation fitting failed at the church - 600 gph leak for a couple of days - is now repaired.
- The condenser drainpipe leak in the sanctuary HVAC has been repaired.
- Sanctuary main lighting-update: We have an LED dimmable replacement bulb now. The first one is installed, the other 2 will be installed as the old bulbs fail. This will reduce heat and load on the dimmer switch. These bulbs do not dim as much as the old incandescent bulbs. Eventually we may need to have a lower intensity lighting source for those low light times at church.
- A generous donor has committed funds for new commercial carpet in the Fellowship Hall. There was discussion about carpet vs vinyl flooring as well as whether a congregational meeting was needed to approve a \$10,000 expenditure when it is covered directly by a donation. It was concluded that a meeting was not required but may still have a meeting.
- A plan is posted for a possible pastor's office addition. We are proceeding slowly on this project.

Worship Committee:

- Outdoor worship times will now be decided by Council. July 13 will be our next time outside.
- Preachers are now choosing the hymns for their Sundays.
- The Season of Pentecost: One liturgy will be used for the first half and then a "Pollinator" version.

Earth Stewardship Committee:

- Garden tour scheduled for July 12th.
- Earth Stewardship movie night this fall.
- More ideas brewing.

Old Business:

- Dinners for 5 or 6, planning and schedule continue to be considered.
- Adult forums will arise organically until we get our new pastor. If anyone would like to lead one, let us know.
- Listening Team dates have been established and sign-up sheets are available in the Fellowship Hall.

New Business:

- Discussed changing the Constitution to allow up to \$10,000 expenditures without a congregational meeting or basing that amount on a percentage, like 7% of the current budget. We would bring this to the Congregation after the ELCA National Assembly has their constitutional review in August.
- Church picnic after Sunday service on June 29, 2025.

Call Committee:

- Three candidates have been interviewed and the committee is in discernment around a site visit. The hope is that a candidate will be identified for Call by a congregational meeting on July 27.
- The council set a Congregational Meeting for July 27, 2025 to vote on a Call. Our constitution requires that congregational meetings be announced for 2 consecutive weeks prior to a meeting requiring a vote.

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

- Pete's questions from Eva's exit interview: How to navigate competing voices when there's disagreement? How do we listen to those who are not speaking? How do we decide? Consensus? Majority? Amy suggested bringing back "Respectful Communication Guidelines" that every committee could use prior to starting their meetings. Pastor Alex introduced it to us long ago.

Next Council Meeting: July 24, 2025



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

Calling a New Pastor...

The Faith Lutheran Call Committee received three names from the Synod and has interviewed all three candidates. After deliberation and consensus, we are bringing one candidate for a site visit at the end of June. Check your email for further information. Exciting!

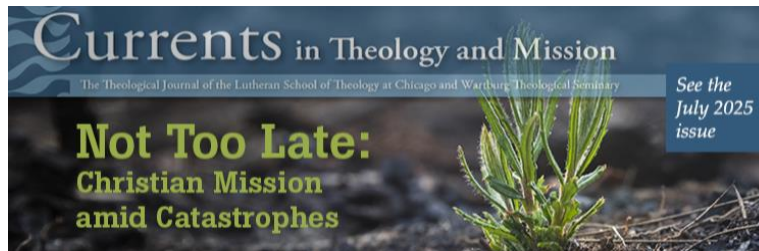
Shalom,

Your Call Committee

Leesa Broker, Judy Hewitt-Harris,
Barbara Rossing, Eric Krumland, Amy
Carlson and Karl Kranz



Kairos for Creation, Kairos for Mission: Hope for Our Common Home, by Faith member Barbara Rossing was published in the July issue of Currents, the Theological Journal of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and Wartburg Theological Seminary (<http://www.currentsjournal.org/index.php/currents>)



Among the many insights in her article, Barbara tells of the power of stories and how they shape the world we see.

Bible stories. We can tell the story of the defeat of apartheid. We can tell so many stories of struggles for justice and civil rights, where people have won victories for justice. Just this past year: because the Montana constitution gives a legal right to clean water and air, a court ruled that the state had violated youths' constitutional rights through its promotion of fossil fuels; a victory that gives hope for a federal lawsuit filed by Our Children's Trust, Juliana versus the United States.

There are many more stories! Read the full article here:

<http://www.currentsjournal.org/index.php/currents/article/view/536/558>



Earth Stewardship Meeting Highlights- June 25, 2025

Advocacy: Senate Rules do not allow the proposed bill being considered in the Senate to require the sale of millions of acres of US Forest Service and Bureau of Land

Management (BLM) lands in Washington State and other key western states. However, the US Senator behind the bill plans to try to modify his proposal to make it pass the Senate rules by focusing on BLM lands within 5 miles of population centers. These public lands include high-traffic recreation sites in the Columbia River Gorge and Methow River Valley. The Earth Stewardship Group encourages you to contact your Senators and Representatives to "come together to protect our public lands".

Earth Stewardship Movie Night coming in October: Join us on October 3, at 6:30 p.m. for a 45 minute documentary film entitled *Living With Wildfire*. The film discusses the recent increases in severe wildfires throughout Washington State and explores the action steps you can take to decrease the risk to your home, neighborhood and community.

Plastics/Composting Recycling: We will provide compostable plates, cups, and utensils for use at the upcoming Church Picnic on June 29. Also, there will be a discussion on composting during the upcoming Garden Tour.

Solstice Art Show: On June 21, 2025 Reed Carlson, a member of our Earth Stewardship Group, hosted an art show in the fellowship hall featuring many of his photographs of our natural world. The show was very well done and well attended. Kudos Reed!

Next Earth Stewardship meeting will be July 23 at 6:30 PM, hosted by Karl Kranz at his home. Join us!

Immigration/Race Justice Group (I/RJG) June 18, as received from Alex Schmidt

Present: Laurie Peek, Ellen Farley, Jill Weil, Meleah Butruille, Sherry Thompson and Alex Schmidt. **Special Guest:** Thomas Weill, finder of the red-shirted tortoise. **Absent:** Brisa Peacock and Carrie Kingsley

Mutual Support: Adequate time was given during our delicious potato soup and tamales (provided by the Unidos Group at Cascade HS) meal to share our stories.

1. Administration/Education:

- a. **Current balance is \$3,669.** A positive discrepancy was noted and will try to be reconciled before the next meeting. The I/RJG has gratefully accepted a \$700 grant from the Faith Lutheran Endowment Committee. This had been used to make 130 Family Safety and Security packets containing 10+ essential documents each. Approximately 100 have been distributed.
- b. **Recreation Ambassadors:** All weekends were filled up. Efforts will be made next year to try and secure this \$2,000 opportunity.
- c. **Trainings:** All of our members have had Rapid Response and Accompaniment trainings.
- d. **Signal Group:** Our I/RJG now has a Lwth Rapid Response Team (LRRT) established. If a local ICE raid takes place, the Signal Group can be notified immediately to take action. First, the Team leader would be contacted by WAISN (WA Immigrant Solidarity Network) who would contact the team who would then quickly assemble at the site. Next steps would be to confirm the raid, video activities by two persons, document in writing the events, communicate with ICE and ask for ID and purpose, then submit an ICE Tracker report to WAISN. All these steps are within our constitutional rights.
- e. **Alex** will distribute a list of team members' responsibilities and we will **simulate** such an event at our next two meetings. **The purpose of a RRT is to: 1. Support the detainee, 2. Promote ICE accountability, 3. Record civil rights violations.**

2. Direct Support:

- a. A review was done examining our latest disbursement of \$1,348 since May.
- b. No new requests for assistance were presented.

3. Advocacy:

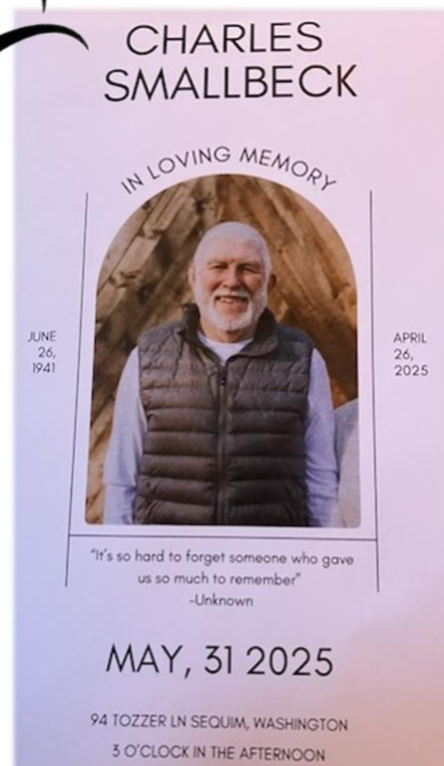
- a. Members were asked to become **vetted** with WAISN before participating in Accompaniment or Rapid Response actions. Vetting insures adhering to WAISN values, confidentiality, appropriate behavior, background check, and driver license/insurance validation.
- b. **Legal Risks:** Much time was spent reviewing and discussing the legal implications of our I/RJG volunteer work especially in cooperation with WAISN. Yes, there are risks involved and the group will do all it can to "reduce" the legal pitfalls.
- c. **Summary of ICE trend activities (Jan-Apr '25) as reported to/by WAISN (the only statewide organization w/a hotline). What does this mean for us?**
 - i. Increased activity in unmarked vehicles and non-uniformed agents.
 - ii. Increased detentions at check-ins and court appearances
 - iii. Not just "felons" being detained, but many others including legal residents.
 - iv. One workplace raid in Bellingham, thirty-seven detained.
 - v. 104 confirmed reported detentions to WAISN
 - vi. Percentage of detentions at:
 - 1. 40% traffic stops
 - 2. 17% Immigration check-ins
 - 3. 12% Private homes
 - 4. 12% Public buildings
 - 5. 12% Government Buildings
 - 6. 8% Inside businesses

- vii. County hotspots (not in order):
 - 1. **Chelan**, King, Yakima, and Whatcom.
 - viii. Urban hotspots: Seattle, **Wenatchee**, Bellingham, Yakima. **Facing increased resistance, will ICE now focus more on rural settings—like the Upper Valley?**
 - ix. 18+ languages. 55% Spanish. 42% English
 - x. 847 new intakes and families supported.
 - xi. 19 Rapid Response Teams formed in 27 counties. We are one of these. Are we ready?
 - xii. 3,000 trained in RRT
4. **Next meetings: Wednesdays, July 16 6 p.m., August 13, 6 p.m. at Ellen's. Also Sept. 17.**



Charles and Dottie Smallbeck were active in the Faith Lutheran community for 21 years before their move to Sequim 8 years ago. Charles died on April 26 and Pastor Alex Schmidt led a memorial service in May.

***Dottie sends her greetings to
all at Faith Lutheran.***



Congratulations
Ellen! Good work!!



A note from Ellen...

Thank you to everyone who sponsored me for the Alpine Lakes Elementary School Jog-A-Thon. I ran 27 laps (four more than last year), which is 6 3/4 miles and I was the top fundraiser in my grade and in the whole school, in large part to the support from the Faith Lutheran congregation! I really appreciate your generous support. The fundraising money was due just a few days after the event, so my parents wrote a check for all the money we hadn't collected yet, so if you didn't pay yet, you can give cash, check, venmo, or paypal to them. We know where you spend your Sunday mornings!

Ellen Merritt

Dear Faith Lutheran Church,

We are very grateful to you for the grant award of \$300.00. It was used toward a stipend for Julie Edwards, a descendant of the native P'Squosha and member of the Colville federation. Julie drove from Elmer City and stayed in town for several nights to help us host Fourth Grade Field trips from Alpine Lakes Elementary School.



Julie spoke from her heart and wisdom on her native history; that included culture, ceremonies, food sources, the devastation of her people being herded off their land here in Leavenworth, being pushed to the reservation, and the historic implications of losing their connections to this land. The students touched pelts, loaned from the Fish Hatchery, and smelled herbs native to the area. The students

were so enthralled, you could hear a pin drop. One student even exclaimed, "That's ridiculous!" When hearing of the disposition.

In gratitude,

Judy Derpack
On behalf of the Education Committee
Upper Valley Historical Society



Faith Lutheran Church: 1939 – 1962

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



1939 – 1948

Pastor F. Tiefel is listed as Pastor during this time with Pastor E. Kirst serving from 1945-1948. The overlap could suggest that perhaps a substitute or possibly a co-Pastor was needed.

1948 – 1952

In 1948, the church wanted to become independent of the Wisconsin Synod and reorganize under the American Lutheran Church. Under the particular requirements needed, the Church, Parsonage and Parish Hall were sold to Dexter and Fleta Emmons, and then the Church and Parish Hall were repurchased for \$1.00 (one dollar). A constitution and by-laws were adopted, the church took the name *Faith Lutheran* and was registered with the state of Washington.

The first pastor was Robert Oestreich who had been called from St. Paul's Lutheran in Wilbur and Almira, Washington and Cashmere in 1942. He was instrumental in organizing Lake Chelan Lutheran Church and also "labored diligently" toward the organization of Faith Lutheran in Leavenworth" (according to *The Golden Years'* Cashmere anniversary booklet). Pr. Oestreich is mentioned frequently in the records of the Church Council and Congregation. He was involved in several building plans "including a woodshed".

On January 23, 1949, the Congregation received a deed to the Church and Parish Hall. In the congregational meeting of that day, it was voted to send a note of thanks to the Emmons with a check for \$1.00 and also a thank you note to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wade, as they had arranged the sale.

Congregational notes from 1954 indicate Faith Lutheran was again without a pastor. In January or February (date not given), it was decided to "contact a minister for ... services on March 15" to which the Blue Birds were invited.

Records of Congregational Meetings skip to October 29, 1954, when it was decided "to move the date of the November (potluck) supper to November 19. At that time, Reverend Baseler and his family would be with us, as October 31 is Reverend and Mrs. White's last Sunday with us."

1952 – 1954: We have no information during this period.

(November) 1954 – 1956

Pr. George Baseler from Clinton, Iowa, had been installed at Grace Lutheran in Cashmere on November 7. He began at Faith in Leavenworth that same month and worked faithfully in both parishes. Like the early pastors, he had an active part in repairing and maintaining church properties. In Cashmere, some people "remember Pastor George's jazz piano".

1956 – 1962

On May 5, 1956, Pr. Baseler installed his successor, Pr. Ernest E. Zellmer. The first years at Faith were apparently quite happy ones. Pr. Zellmer bought a home in town (unknown where) and moved from 208 Cedar (probably rented). He found Leavenworth a friendly community. Pr. Zellmer was apparently retired and had been called to "limited duty" in Cashmere in 1957, assisting Pr. Baseler. By 1961 his work at Leavenworth had become too burdensome.

There was much discussion at two special Council meetings in May and June, 1961, as to the fate of the Church. Should Leavenworth join with Cashmere to insure a better youth program and enough Sunday School teachers? It was decided to "try Cashmere for two months, August 1 - October 1". The Council records end here, but the Women's Society continues to record Pastor and Mrs. Zellmer's attendance at Society meetings.

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.

Faith Lutheran community protesting **NO KING** on June 14.



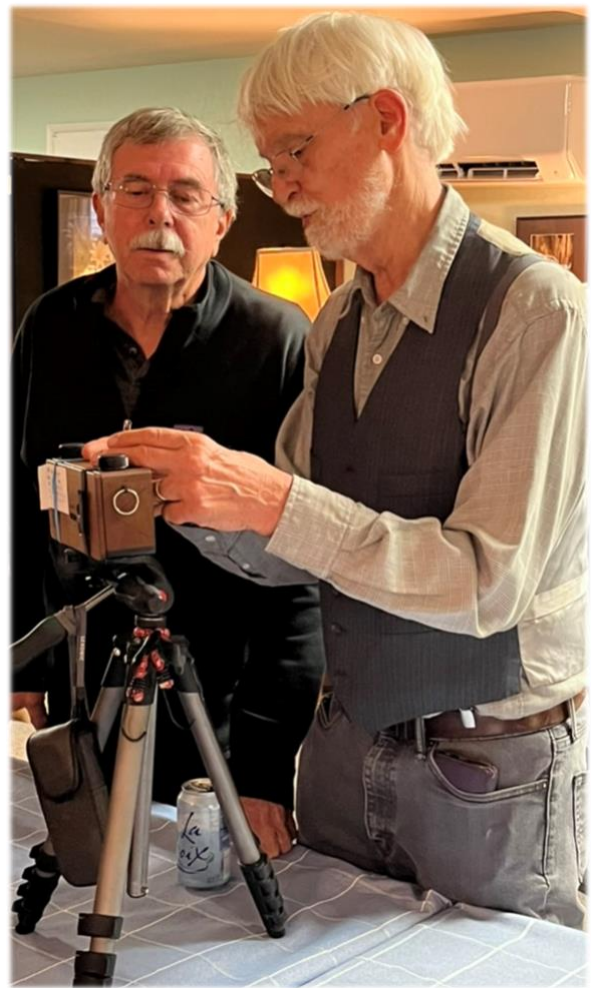
Outdoor Worship, June 15

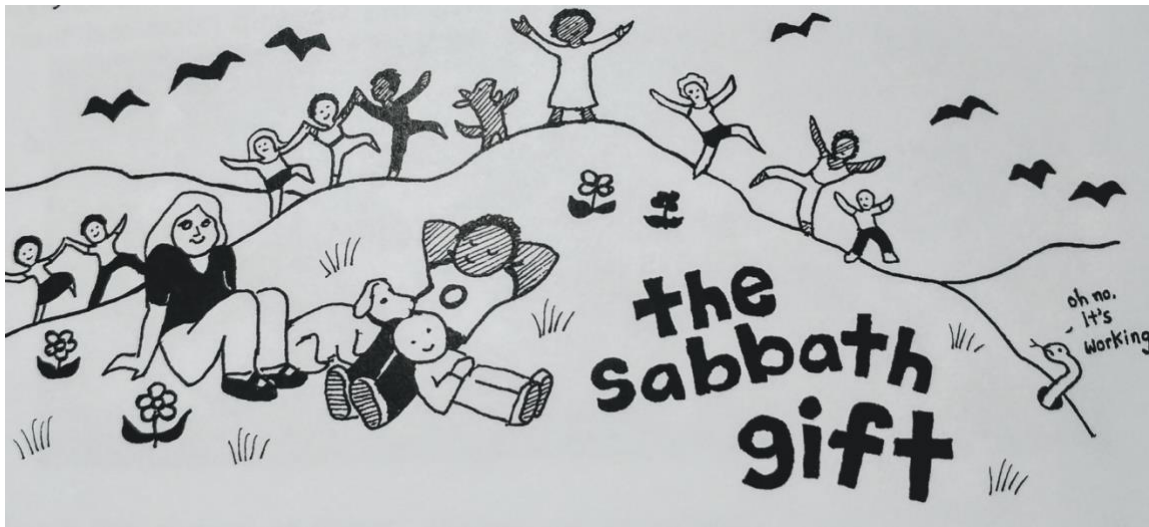


Yard Clean-up Day, May 31



Reed Carlson Art Show, June 21





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 July 24 for the August issue.

