



Life of Faith

MARCH 2025

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From our president....

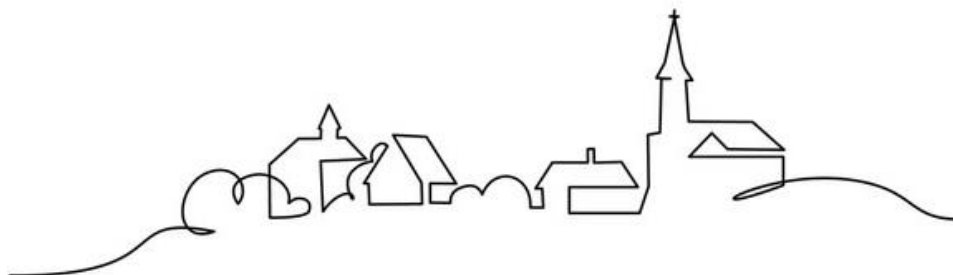
March comes! Mud abounds today and Spring is promised. This is not a gardening column, but to follow up on last month's blueberries, I will say that I researched types of strawberry varieties with great care, ordered a dozen bare root plants by mail, tucked them in our native ground and watered them - they are fruitful and unstoppable. That could describe Faith Lutheran, actually.

Lutheran Pastors are in short supply and the Council and I have been in close communication with Phil Misner, Assistant to the Bishop. The Listening Teams from the synod are coming to Faith but influenza disrupted the time table and I look forward to their arrival. I received a direct communication from our Bishop confirming that there are no interns available to us this coming year. In January the council turned down the initial offer of an interim pastor. The Council felt that we have more work to do ourselves before committing to any pastor. Our first council retreat will be February 27 where we will begin addressing where we are, where we have been and most importantly where we are going as people of Faith. I have great regard for these council members, we possess a variety of gifts and strengths which we will explore.

I am also pleased with the group that has volunteered to be your Call Committee. A congregational meeting is planned to vote them in and then the work begins. Thanks to Pr. Barbara Rossing, for her leadership and also Pr John Schramm who is leading the lay preacher's group and overseeing pastoral care. Their efforts give us time to pray, seek and consider each option as we go through the process of discernment.

We pray for wisdom.

Karl Kranz



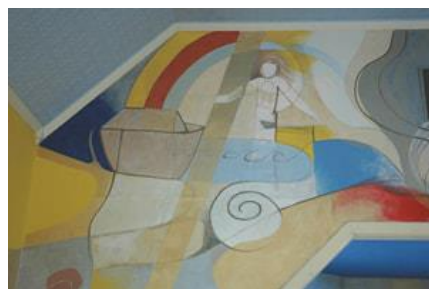
From Pr. Barbara Rossing...

Transfigured by God's Light: Our Lenten Journey

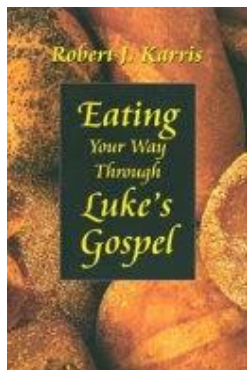


When I was lecturing about God's future to pastors in Colorado last month, I showed slides of our wonderful Faith Lutheran murals. I love the gold beams coming down into our world from heaven, opening up "another world of artistry and imagination." <https://www.flcleavenworth.com/murals.html>. The artist, Rich Caemmerer, painted these gold beams to show how God comes into our world and transfigures our reality, the theme of Transfiguration Sunday, March 2.

Lent will begin March 5, on Ash Wednesday. Come to church at 7 pm for ashes and Holy Communion, remembering that "from stardust you came, and to stardust you will return." The forty-day season of Lent prepares us for Easter. ELCA World Hunger forty-day calendars will guide us in sharing our life and food with others.



Eating Your Way through the Gospel of Luke



Bring your Bibles (any translation is fine!) each Wednesday at 5:30 during Lent for a quick half-hour of "Eating Your Way through the Gospel of Luke," followed by soup supper, silent meditation and worship (see pg. 3 for schedule). Food is one of the most striking themes of Luke's gospel. Jesus' most important teachings happen with food—three meals with Pharisees, meals where Jesus is host (the feeding of the 5000; the last supper), and the Easter recognition of Jesus at Emmaus. As one scholar writes, "The aroma of food issues forth from each and every chapter of the Gospel of Luke." As we eat together we will ponder: How does eating food together open our eyes to recognize God's presence in our lives?

Pope Francis Phones Gaza Every Day, even from his hospital bed...

It was moving to read Monday February 24, that "Francis received the Eucharist, and according to the Vatican, in the afternoon he engaged in some work. This evening, the pope called the parish priest in Gaza 'to express his paternal closeness' as he has done almost daily since Israel's siege of the Gaza Strip began."

You too can offer support, or receive support, with a phone call.



MARCH WORSHIP AND EVENT SCHEDULE

<p><u>March 2:</u> Transfiguration Sunday, Pr. Barbara Rossing March 4: Mardi Gras (see page 4) <u>March 5:</u> Ash Wednesday, Pr. Barbara Rossing, 7:00 p.m. <u>March 9:</u> lay preacher Eric Krumland, presider Pr. Cindy Carroll Congregational meeting to elect Call Committee <u>March 16:</u> Pr. Barbara Rossing <u>March 23:</u> Pr. Barbara Rossing <u>March 30:</u> Pr. Barbara Rossing</p>	<p><u>Wednesdays in Lent</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30 Bible study: <i>Eating our way Through Luke</i> • 6:00 soup supper • 6:30 quiet sanctuary time • 7:00 Holden Evening Prayer
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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 Worshipping Christ and Start Following Jesus* by Robin Meyers. 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: March 5 and 19, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

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

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

IMMIGRATION/RACE AND JUSTICE: March 19, 6:00 p.m. Contact Alex Schmidt 509-548-7012 for details.

EARTH STEWARDSHIP: March 18, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall



Please note.....

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



Join us March 5, 6:00 – 8:00

Gumbo, beverages and dessert provided
Please bring a side of your choice as possible
Crazy clothes encouraged but not required

**Live Dixieland Band and sing
along!**



***Mardi Gras** is French for Fat Tuesday and falls on the day before Ash Wednesday. It is characterized by much festivity and the consumption of rich, fatty foods in preparation for the time of Lent.*



March is the Faith Lutheran Endowment Grant Application Period

Grant applications are now being accepted by the Faith Lutheran Endowment Committee through March 31, 2025. The distribution amount will likely be similar to recent years, which is about \$5,000. Because the amount available is relatively small, please limit the size of your request.

The endowment committee carefully follows the endowment resolution established by our congregation. The grants are to be distributed in the following percentages.

Applications will be sent to the church email list or you can request one from Lisa Therrell at merrymulesears@msn.com or committee members Debbie Florea and Jan Monroe. Please contact any of us if you have questions.

- Minimum of 20% for outreach into the local community or synod.
- Minimum of 20% for Churchwide ministries.
- Minimum of 20% for extraordinary programs/capital improvements or other ministry initiatives within this congregation.
- Minimum 10% for other non-profit humanitarian organizations.
- Remaining 30% distributed through any of the above categories.

Last year grants were awarded to the following programs/projects: Immigration/Race Justice Group, Dangerous Women, Lutherans Restoring Creation, C.E.I.P.A.: Luceritos, Tumaini Boarding School in Tanzania, the Free Little Pantry, FLC Quilters, Upper Valley Historical Museum, Upper Valley Connection Art Program, Waste Loop, Ingalls Creek Enrichment Center and a hot water heater for the Fellowship Hall.

CHURCH COUNCIL February 2025

Election of Officers by acclamation: Karl Kranz, president, Rosalyn Francis, vice president, Greg Steeber, treasurer, Amy Carlson/ Heidi Krumland, secretary

Treasurer's Report:

- Council requests a summary report of the Capital Campaign be prepared for the congregation.
- Compared to last January, giving is up but still below budget. Expenses are lower with no pastor.

Pastor's Report:

Guest pastor, Barbara Rossing, reviewed pastoral care and has updated the prayer list. She attended the recent cluster meeting with other church leaders in our synod. There were no funerals, confirmation or weddings and one baptism in the past year.

Property / Parsonage Project Committee:

- Alpine Air checked our heat pumps that were icing up. Repairs made.
- A new hybrid heat pump/water heater was installed in the parsonage. There was a \$1000 rebate, energy savings, plus 30% federal tax credit.
- Parsonage is being rented by a family with 2 children / 6 month lease.
- The gas fireplace has been repaired.

Worship Committee:

- Schedule for Wednesdays during Lent:
 - 5:30 Bible study: *Eating our way Through Luke*
 - 6:00 soup supper
 - 6:30 quiet sanctuary time
 - 7:00 Holden Evening Prayer

Old Business:

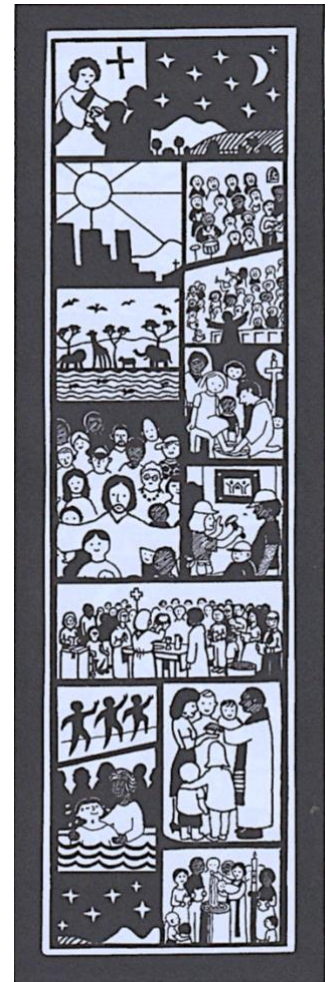
- Establish a Finance Committee (Pastor, President, Treasurer, other) to work on money matters. Should additional, money savvy members be included?
- Continue discussion with leadership at our neighboring churches about security, parking, other?
- Our Methodist neighbors have asked if we could/would share a pastor and split the financial responsibility. After discussion, the council decided to respectfully decline at this time.
- The idea of engaging a seminary intern to serve our congregation has been tabled.
- Dinners for 5 or 6 in our community still needs leadership. Tabled until after Easter.
- Adult forum organizer still to be discovered.
- Mardi Gras celebration scheduled for March 4 at 6:00 in the fellowship hall.

New Business:

- A key box has been secured in the office.
- Fees for non-member rental of Fellowship Hall – the council needs to update the policy of parameters and charges. Initial thoughts: start with \$75 for an evening / \$200 for all-day use.

Council work:

- The idea of Don Haven and Cindy Carroll as transitional pastors has been tabled.
- A Call Committee is being formed. There will be a congregational meeting after worship on March 9 to vote on the council's committee recommendation.
- A council retreat is scheduled for Thursday, Feb 27 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. at Steeber's home.





- **The Northwest Intermountain Synod's EcoFaith Action Network** sponsored a virtual workshop on Energy Rebates and Offers entitled "Save Money ... Power up Mission" on Tuesday February 25 with Dr. Jim Martin -Schramm. Faith Lutheran Church representatives assisted by presenting a case study involving our recent installation of heat pump systems in the sanctuary and fellowship hall and a hybrid electric water heater upgrade in the parsonage.
- **Lighted Cross:** There was an article in the *Seattle Times* about the proposed 70 ft. lighted cross on Tumwater Ridge which included comments from Pr. Barbara Rossing. The Leavenworth City Council will consider a resolution regarding the cross at a meeting on March 11. Also see the following websites for more information: <https://www.keepleavenworthnatural.org>
<https://gofund.me/3ff3a126>
- **Compostable donation:** Faith's Earth Stewardship Group supported the Dia de Los Reyes celebration at the Fest Hall on Jan 4, 2025 with a donation to purchase compostables and volunteers to manage the disposal of compostables at the dinner event.
- **Earth Stewardship themed Movie/Documentaries Night:** We are still planning this. Stay tuned!
- **Plastics and Recycling:** We are considering the possibility of obtaining a commercial composting account with Winton MFG Composting. Church members and friends could sign up to make a small annual donation to help cover the cost and then bring their kitchen compost to a new bear proof compost collection bin at Church. There was discussion regarding whether there would be enough interest to support this based on a similar past effort. It was agreed we would make an announcement and offer a sign up list to gauge interest before proceeding.
- **The ELCA's *Our Kairos Moment: A study Guide on Earth's Climate Crisis*:** This devotional series, planned for Sunday mornings in the fellowship hall after church services, is on hold due to Barbara's schedule. Watch for more details
- **Earth Stewardship Calendar** - Next meeting we will plan to assign dates to our calendar for events such as Low E Sunday, Garden tours, "No Mow May" and others.
- **Dates to remember...**
 - **March 21 - 24:** *Holden Village Women's Retreat* (see pg. 9)
 - **March 27 (9:00 am to 2:30 PM Pacific Time):** We plan to stream this *National Faith + Climate Forum* at the fellowship hall for anyone who wants to come and participate. For information about this national event, go to: <https://nationalfaithandclimateforum.org/>
 - **May 15 - 19:** *Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest* is inclusive of all people, offers conservation field trips and art and science workshops. Our Faith community is encouraged to participate by attending this awesome event in our backyards
<https://wenatcheeriverinstitute.org/bird-fest/> Faith member Heather Murphy will be the Bird Fest's Artist Spotlight!
- **Next Meeting:** March 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Join us!



IMMIGRATION: A statement from our presiding bishop....

ELCA [Presiding Bishop](#) Elizabeth Eaton has issued a [video message](#) in response to the executive order on immigration

that rolled back guidance to immigration authorities in protected areas such as places of worship, schools and hospitals.

Eaton spoke out against the order and urged members and others to add their voices. "You are a superpower. They don't expect thousands and thousands of ordinary people in our pews and in our communities to join together for this action. So, get motivated and get organized. We are church together, and together we will continue to

defend the most vulnerable communities and people among us as Jesus taught us."

Eaton also addressed the numerous lawsuits challenging this action. "Given the ELCA's polity and denominational structure, the churchwide organization would not be an appropriate plaintiff in these actions," she said. "But congregations can demonstrate that they could be harmed by the rescission, and they would have standing in this lawsuit. We will continue to [speak out](#) against harmful policies and in support of our marginalized neighbors."



Immigration/Race Justice Group January 2025

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

- With gratitude we received \$300 from a member, \$500 from non-profit educational organization CEIPA in Guatemala, \$350 as partial payment to another high school student for driver's education and a \$500 grant from Advent Lutheran's Endowment.
- Forums on immigration in January at FLC were well attended and affirmed by the group.
- Our next event will be a showing of "Harvest of Empire," April 6, at Camp Camarac, near Plain, where one of our members is Director. Will begin at 4 p.m. with discussion and then dinner.
- A packet has been prepared of essential "Family Safety and Security" documents to be distributed to selected businesses, schools and agencies and 200 "Immigrants Welcome" decals ordered.
- Community Guest invitations have gone out to Taylor Caldwell from the Echo. Sheriff Morrison (March 19) and an agent from the ICE in Wenatchee (not confirmed yet). Our intention is to not only let these individuals know something of what we do but to establish a relationship.
- We participated in the *Achievement by Individual Determination* (AVID) program at CHS. Most students are from migrant families. Personal statements reflect significant positive impact on their lives, their families and changed perceptions of our community.
- Presented a request from a CHS student requesting partial financial assistance to register for Driver's Education. \$350 was given which came from the newly formed Unidos group at CHS. She mentioned how members of this group continue to support one another as well as others in their immigrant student community. More positive news.
- The director of Camp Camarac, is working at building a bridge between our Fire Dept. and 4 immigrant men, experienced in fire fighting, wanting to volunteer their time and abilities.
- Alex shared about a family whose father has been detained and sent to the NWDetention Center last week. They are seeking legal counsel and need help. He will coordinate with Unido Nueva Alianza, an immigrant advocacy group to see how the I/RJG can assist.
 - **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 19, 6 p.m. with Sheriff Morrison. Call Alex for details



Special announcement from our Synod Bishop, Meggan Manlove.....

Misinformation targets Lutheran organizations Here is the truth

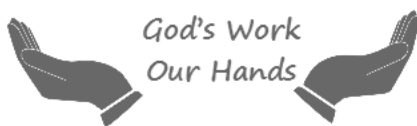
Dear NWIM Synod,

On February 1, 2025, misinformation spread on X (formerly Twitter), falsely accusing Lutheran organizations of financial misconduct. A post from "General Mike Flynn" implied that Lutheran groups like Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) and Lutheran Services in America receive excessive federal funding without transparency. Elon Musk then amplified the claim, suggesting that the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), a new government office under the Trump Administration, was shutting down "illegal payments."

These allegations are false and dangerous. Lutheran organizations have faithfully served refugees, immigrants and vulnerable communities for 85 years, using grant funding responsibly and transparently. These grants support legally admitted refugees and provide essential services, continuing a long-standing commitment to care for the most vulnerable.

The Rev. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, executed by German nationalists for resisting tyranny, once said: "The church is only truly the church when it exists for others."

This was true in 1930s and '40s Europe and it is true today in the United States, where Lutherans—alongside Catholic, Episcopal, Evangelical and other Christian partners—have stepped up where governments have failed.



Lutheran Services in America reaches 1 in 50 people in the U.S. every year—not for profit, not for power, but because it is what the Gospel commands.

In response to allegations, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton released a video addressing the misinformation and reaffirming our church's dedication to truth and service. "Despite misinformation and baseless doubt cast today on funding that supports Lutheran organizations across our country, the ELCA remains steadfast in our commitment and work with our many Lutheran partners and expressions of our church," she stated.

As Lutherans, we follow the Eighth Commandment: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." Last October, the ELCA Conference of Bishops publicly denounced the normalization of lies and deceit in public discourse. Today, we reaffirm our commitment to truth and urge political leaders to use their platforms responsibly.

For over 2,000 years, the church has been called to feed the hungry, care for the sick and advocate for justice and dignity for all people. This mission does not change in the face of misinformation. The ELCA remains committed to this work, standing alongside our Lutheran partners to serve our neighbors in need.

Bishop Meggan Manlove

Watch Bishop Eaton's [YouTube Video](#).
ELCA Conference of Bishops' statement on truth and accountability here: [Statement](#).
[LINK](#) to Lutheran Community Services Northwest in our synod.



Women's Retreat

By popular demand, Holden Village is offering a second Women's Retreat which includes FLC member Heather Murphy on teaching staff. Being in nature was the number one reason people were at Holden for the first retreat in January. The second retreat will be March 21 – 24 and will again provide opportunities for teaching sessions, group conversations, reflections, crafts, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Learn more here: <https://www.holdenvillage.org/calendar/womens-retreat-march-2025/> Check out [the flyer](#).



Angels Provide for Free Little Pantry ! Thank you.

The Free Little Pantry has experienced a wonderful spike in food donations. Thanks to angels who are bringing food, and even more food. Our current donation trend will result in the pantry continuing as a sustainable and viable ministry of Faith Lutheran. Blessed be.



We are currently well stocked with instant oatmeal for the next few months.

Here are suggestions of what we currently need...

Costco Shoppers

Fruit in small containers like peaches, mandarin oranges and applesauce. A box of Ritz Crackers (there are 18 separate packages inside, making this a great choice). Ramen. Noodle bowls. Beef Jerky in small packets. Beef sticks individually wrapped. Mixed nuts or trail mix in small packets. Tuna.

Dollar Tree

Crackers, milk or alternative milks in aseptic packaging, tortillas. Toothpaste. Dish soap. Shampoo. Cans of marinara sauce with meat. Boxes of pancake mix or other baking mixes like muffins and cornbread. These are all \$1.25 each, a way better deal than anywhere else.

Of course you are welcome to buy these items anywhere. Costco and Dollar Tree just have the best prices.



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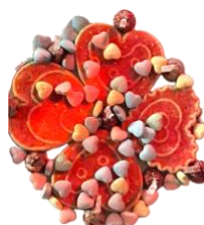
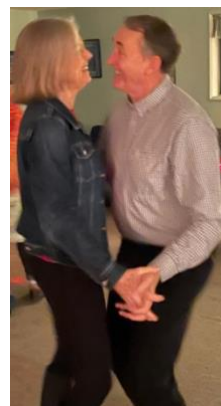
Sunday morning snow shovelers, Karl Kranz and Greg Harris

Pr. Jess Ingman presents forum on the work of Faith Action Network and ways to become involved with advocacy



A new hot water heater installed!

Faith Lutheran Valentine dancers.....



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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 March 24 for the April issue.