



LIFE OF FAITH

NOVEMBER 2025

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From our pastor.....

I almost stepped on a mountain goat last month while hiking with a congregant in the Enchantments. I'd walked up to take in the view – completely fixated on this stunning alpine lake – when he said, “Hey, you might want to watch what’s behind you.” I turned around and there it was: a massive mountain goat lounging under a rock, just a few feet away. I'd totally missed it because I was so focused on what was ahead of me.

As we head into November, it's easy to charge full steam into the end of the year – travel plans, Christmas energy, gift lists, gatherings. I'm starting to feel the pull of all of it, too. But that mountain goat reminds me to pay attention to what's happening right here, right now. There might be something in our immediate surroundings worth beholding, worth honoring with our full attention.

So as fall settles in and the earth begins to slow down, take a moment to notice: the crisp air, the falling leaves, the quiet beauty right where you are.

Peace,
Pastor Aaron





From our president.....

The drought is broken, the rains have returned! Once again, the mountain seasons have shifted gears like a teenager driving Papa's Porsche-slam, bang, there is snow on the peaks. The pace of life changes too and my Autumn indoor task has been to press ahead with plans for our new Pastor's Office at Faith Lutheran Church.

Descriptions and 2-dimensional sketches are helpful, but I am a visual person and a 3-D model helps me 'see' an idea. Like burglars casing the Louvre, your property committee has looked at every wall and every corner of the Fellowship Hall for months seeking the jewel, the best place to site a separate space for this office. I have drawn up one possibility and will present a model Sunday to open the congregation-wide discussion. We will then start the process of deciding by having a series of brainstorming sessions during coffee hour.

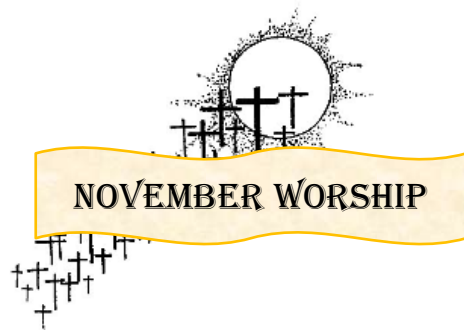
Like any other building project, first we need a concept, then a sketch, then a plan and budget. Once these basics are established then an architect or designer needs to draw the detailed plans for construction which allows us to apply for approval and permits from the city and then a construction crew to put it up. There are infinite concepts and infinite variations on any single plan, we have to start someplace so here we go!

I am a dreamer sometimes and my dream for this project is to draw thoughts, ideas and skills out of every member at Faith to accomplish this needed addition. Let's work together to make this happen.

With God's Grace

Karl Kranz





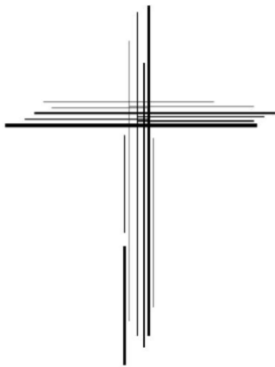
November 2: **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**

November 9: **Twenty second Sunday after Pentecost**

November 16: **Twenty third Sunday after Pentecost**

November 23: **CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY**

November 30: **ADVENT I**



All Saints: Blessed Are Those Who Mourn

On All Saints Sunday we remember those who have died, as well as living saints who shape us. Saints of Faith Lutheran who have died this past year include Merrell Cagle (December 19, 2024), Karen Strom (March 27, 2025), John Butruille (May 23, 2025) and former members Chuck Smallbeck and Judy Winkelmann.

For All Saints Sunday worship November 2, you are invited to bring photos of those beloved to you, and name them before God as we light candles and remember them in prayer.

The Communion of Saints includes all of us, the living and the dead, as we profess in the Apostles' Creed. We are all saints of God!

The church commemorates specific saints on their death dates. In November we remember two who are named Martins, and more:

November 3, Martin de Porres, renewer of society (1639)

November 11, Martin, Bishop of Tours (397); Martin Luther is named for him

November 11, Soren Kierkegaard, theologian and teacher (1855)

November 17, Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society (1231)

November 23, Clement, bishop of Rome (100)

November 24, Pastor Jehu Jones, first black pastor in North America (1852)

November 25, Isaac Watts, hymn writer (1748)

WEEKLY / MONTHLY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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.

SAIL: (Staying Active and Independent for Life) Tuesdays 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 1:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Please contact Lori Reister at 509-860-3278.

November 7, 14, 28: **EARTH STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:** 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

November 20 - **CHURCH COUNCIL:** 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall



Pacific Lutheran University Christmas

All Shall Be Well

Friday December 5th 7:30pm

Grace Lutheran in Wenatchee will be providing transportation to PLU Christmas Concert as the Choir of the West, University Chorale and University Symphony Orchestra present *All Shall Be Well*. The bus will depart Grace's parking lot at 2:00 p.m., picking Leavenworth folks up at the Big Y Park 'N Ride (Peshastin) at 2:15. Snacks are permitted on board. There is no cost for the bus, but gratuities from passengers to the driver are expected-- suggesting \$2-\$5 per person.

Ticket prices: \$40 – general admission, \$35 – senior citizens (60+), PLU alumni, military, \$20 – children 12 and under. This opportunity is open to interested people in the Wenatchee Valley. To sign up, please contact the Grace Lutheran office (office@glcwen.org or 509-663-2189) by November 2. Make checks payable to Grace Lutheran with PLU in the memo line; also provide your phone number.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Treasurer's Report:

- In general, financial gifts are increasing slightly since the beginning of the year.
- Sept. was above budget with the receipt of an annual gift but still \$23K behind for the year.

Pastors Report:

Pr. Aaron self-assessed his ministry thus far using the Mutual Expectations from our Ministry Site Profile we used during the call process. Thorough and thoughtful, you can read this on file. He also presented some groundwork for our upcoming council retreat revolving around 'The System Around Us' of the greater church body AND 'Who We Are' as a congregation, our identity and purpose, to be redefined using the insightful & thorough Listening Teams report (Which will be sent out to all soon!) He gave the council homework to do: An Identity Worksheet and a Values Exercise....in preparation for our all-day retreat on December 13.

Property Committee:

- Fellowship Hall Minisplit repair completed, should be covered by the warranty.
- New Fellowship Hall floor has survived its first coffee spill, no stains!!
- All irrigation systems winterized
- Pastor's office plans: we will gather after coffee to generate congregational input for the office addition. Karl will create a 3-D scale model to help visualize the plan. Thank you, Karl!!

Worship Committee:

- Mountain Meadows has requested we host another worship service there on Christmas Day.
- Advent Soup Suppers at 6:00 p.m. followed by Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m.

Earth Stewardship Committee:

- A documentary movie night is planned for January 9.
- We will provide recycled cups for Halloween and volunteer to help with the Three Kings Celebration again.
- Pr. Aaron will present the ELCA's social statement on 'Earth's Climate Crisis' at an adult forum on Sunday, October 26. He will go into greater depth on Friday nights at 6:30 on Nov 7, 14, 21.

Old Business:

- Dinners for 5 or 6, planning. We talked about this at length and decided it IS an important part of our values to form connections outside of Sunday mornings, so Karl and Rosalyn volunteered to lead.
- Schedule process for changing the Constitution to allow the council a percentage of the annual budget for expenditures without a congregational vote: Jan 11th, 2026, the council will propose to the congregation a constitutional change from the long-standing \$5000 to 7% percentage of the budget which will flex depending upon that budget. An announcement of this meeting will be made before November 9.
- Reviewed, briefly, the Synod's Listening Team report and agreed that it needed to be sent to the congregation, immediately, for transparency's sake. Some things Pr. Aaron noted: "a pivotal moment of mission and identity changes/review – time to ask bold questions" Also, "change should be intentional and not rest entirely on the pastor's shoulders." The pastor is not a superhero; we are a 'fellowship of all believers' which means we ALL take part in this change, thoughtfully.
- Our Council Retreat will be held on December 13.

New Business:

Our Halloween Night hosting continues in the Fellowship Hall, a warm place with bathrooms and hot chocolate.

Organizational Improvement Topic to work on this month:

Transparency and collaboration— Pr. Aaron has met this head-on; we are truly blessed to have a deep-thinking, courageous and compassionate leader and look forward to what we can do together.

EARTH STEWARDSHIP GROUP

- **Climate Message Study:** Pastor Aaron will be leading a Climate focused study series based on the ELCA Climate Crisis social message for a one hour session each November 7, 14, and 21 in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Please join us!
 - **Earth Stewardship Movie Night:** Mark your calendar for our next Earth Stewardship Movie Night planned for Friday January 9 at 6:30 p.m.! The subject/movie is still to be determined. On October 3 we watched a 45 minute documentary film entitled *Living With Wildfire* that discussed the recent increases in severe wildfires in Washington State and throughout the west, fueled by climate change. We explored the action steps we can take to decrease risk to our homes, neighborhoods and community.
 - **Connecting with Indigenous Cultures:**
 - a. Pastor Aaron Musser and Barbara Rossing recommend inviting P'squosa (Wenatchi) tribal leader John Sirois to lead an adult forum at Faith Lutheran Church, exploring how we might deepen relationships between churches and the P'squosa, possibly around issues of salmon, fish passage at dams, and more. Pastor Aaron and Barbara attended the P'squosa River Connections meeting at Colville Tribal Museum, Grand Coulee Dam, October 8, representing Faith Lutheran Church.
 - b. Carl Florea and Barbara Rossing will attend "Beyond Land Acknowledgement," a Wenatchee River Institute and Chelan Douglas Land Trust Indigenous Leadership training event, Nov 4-5. Claire Seaman's new film that Faith Lutheran's endowment helped fund, "The Icicle Calls Us Back," will be premiered.
 - **Compostables/recycling:**
 - a. The Earth Stewardship Group is making a donation to support the upcoming youth Halloween Celebration at Faith Lutheran by providing compostable cups and returning them for composting.
 - b. We are again making plans to provide a donation and support for the Di de los Reyes (Three Kings) celebration in Leavenworth after New Years.
 - c. Our worship bulletins are now being printed on 100% post consumer fiber (i.e. recycled paper).
- 2) **Next Meeting of the Earth Stewardship Group:** November 19, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



You are invited.....

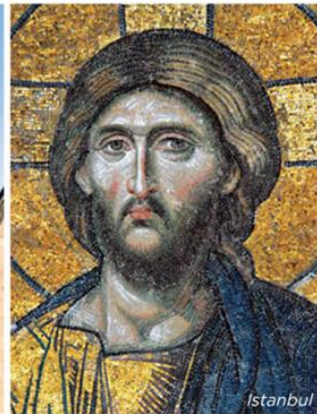
Pastor Barbara Rossing invites Faith Lutheran members and friends to join the Lutheran School of Theology's "World of the Bible" travel seminar to Greece and Turkey, May 21-June 7, 2026, co-led with Prof. Esther Menn. Here is a link: <https://tutku.travel/tour/world-of-the-bible-biblical-christian-jewish-muslim-sites-in-greece-turkiye>

This journey of discovery will include the churches of Revelation and Letters of Paul. We will visit Istanbul's Ottoman Empire sites, the Sufi mystic Rumi's tomb and dervishes, Greek monasteries in the rock cliffs of Meteora, an icon-painting studio, Delphi, Athens, Ephesus, and ancient churches and archeology of early Christianity, including Cappadocia's amazing "fairy chimneys" and painted cave churches. Seven nights in Greece, including overnight ferry (with cabin) from Athens to the island of Patmos where John wrote his Apocalypse; nine nights in Turkey. Cost \$5565 including airfare from Chicago; or \$4360 land only.



Lutheran School of
Theology at Chicago

WORLD OF THE BIBLE: BIBLICAL, CHRISTIAN, JEWISH & MUSLIM SITES IN GREECE & TURKEY



Welcome! You are invited to join faculty and students from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in a pilgrimage to biblical cities of Greece and Turkey. Visit ancient sites of the Apostle Paul's missionary journeys and the churches of Revelation, and experience the Mediterranean world's amazing landscapes. Tour hosts Barbara Rossing and Esther Menn lead frequent "World of the Bible" trips to the Holy land. Both of us love the biblical world's rich history, as well as its religious and cultural diversity today. Both of us have traveled in Turkey with LSTC's Muslim students. Barbara Rossing teaches New Testament and has excavated at Ephesus, researching the biblical book of Revelation in the context of the Roman Empire. Esther Menn teaches Old Testament, with expertise in Jewish-Christian and Muslim Christian relations. Our group's mix of students, lay people, alumni and friends offers an experience of seminary life on the road, as together we explore two of the most fascinating countries of the world.



**The Rev. Dr.
Barbara R. Rossing**



Dr. Esther Menn

**TOUR
HOSTS**

Please email brassing@lstc.edu for more information

There is still time.....



Heather Murphy invites the Faith Lutheran community to visit the LAST TUESDAY'S ARTISTS EXHIBIT which continues at the Leavenworth Library through November 21

The Last Tuesdays Artists exhibit showcases four of the many Leavenworth area artists who gather monthly to create art together. Look for the variety of art shown such as pen & ink with watercolor, lino-prints, intaglio prints, mixed media, photography, written word and paintings. These are a welcoming group of artists who strive to help others excel in the arts of all kinds. We hope you will be inspired by Tracy Valentine's beautiful photography, or CarolAnn Seaman's printing press showings, or Olivia Schilling's natural science illustrations or Heather Murphy's nature studies.

Artists:

Tracy Valentine

Horsewoman,
watercolorist,
photographer.

CarolAnn Seaman Baker,
artist, printmaker, writer.

Olivia Schilling Botanist-
Artist, drawn to nature and
whimsy.

Heather Murphy Wildlife
biologist, watercolorist,
nature journalist, notecard
artist

Thank you quilters!

The Faith Lutheran Church Quilter's Group has been hard at work this year stitching around 40 quilts that were blessed during worship on Reformation Sunday, October 26. They will be sent around the world by @luthworldrelief .





Members of the Faith Lutheran community served as a Trachten Troupe for the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce at the 2025 Oktoberfest. They were part of the parade, helped manage long lines, answer guest questions, take pictures and promote general goodwill among the thousands of guests. In return, Faith will receive \$2,400 from the Chamber.

Thank you !

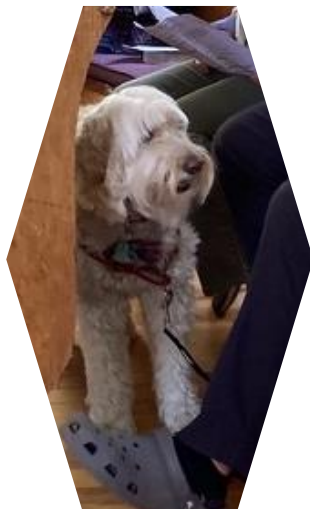
Ellen Farley, Debbie Florea, Rosalyn Francis, Aaron Musser, Heidi and Eric Krumland, Karl and Dawn Kranz, Barbara Rossing, Greg and Mary Steeber



Happy Birthday Martin Luther!

NOVEMBER 10, 1483

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
OCTOBER 5, 2025**



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 November 21 for the December issue.

