



Life of Faith

OCTOBER 2025

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From Pastor Aaron.....

One spring in college, I crammed myself into a packed car with fellow music majors on a road trip from the Minneapolis area all the way to Fargo, North Dakota. What was in Fargo, you may ask? A choir directors' conference that culminated in an evening performance by the highly acclaimed group Conspirare. Their conductor, Craig Hella Johnson, had just composed the piece they would perform: Considering Matthew Shepard, a multi-movement operetta/requiem that tells and honors the painful story of Matthew Shepard's death.

Everything about that concert – the staging, the casting, the incredible sounds that ranged from ethereal and effervescent to raw power – touched me in ways that continue to shape how I think about music, yes, but also about our life together as a human community. One of the movements begins with these lyrics:

*We tell each other stories so that we will remember
Try and find the meaning in the living of our days
Always telling stories, wanting to remember
Where and whom we came from
Who we are*

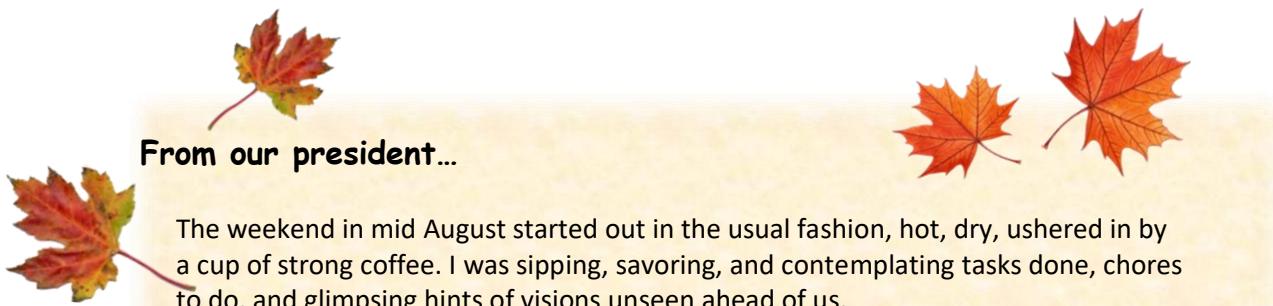
As I've been acclimating to life at Faith Lutheran and in Leavenworth, I've been honored to hear and hold some of your stories. I've also been grateful to share some of mine with you. The sharing of stories is something I want to prioritize as I begin here, so I've set a goal: by the end of this calendar year, I hope to have met with each of you – individually or as family units – to hear some of your stories.

Your stories of Leavenworth, your stories of Faith, and the stories of your heart – your joys and struggles, what keeps you up at night, what makes you hopeful. You are welcome to share as much or as little as you feel comfortable. Since my calendar tends to fill quickly, please be in touch with me so that we can set up a time and make this goal possible.

It's hard to put your finger on it, but there is something so important, so special, about sharing our stories with one another. And I look forward to making new ones with all of you, too.

Peace,
Pastor Aaron





From our president...

The weekend in mid August started out in the usual fashion, hot, dry, ushered in by a cup of strong coffee. I was sipping, savoring, and contemplating tasks done, chores to do, and glimpsing hints of visions unseen ahead of us.

BAM, 72 hours later, due to circumstances not my fault and beyond my control, I found myself to be...

A 70 year old Grandfather, and everything changed, again!

I like snuggling Grandma Dawn, and the coffee is still good and strong, but my perspective has been abruptly rearranged. Anticipation is wonderful, but reality is cataclysmically amazing. A Grandchild indeed, our first. I've worn spectacles for 60 years now, but I still remember the first time I put on glasses and realized that there were individual leaves all the way up to the top of the trees, not just a green blur, and mountains in the distance were really clear and distinct. My point of view and understanding of the visual world changed forever.

So it is with the blessing of a granddaughter. I now see beyond next week, next year, and the next decade into the time span of a new generation. The next 3 score and ten years matter concretely to me. If you are a grandparent, perhaps you know this feeling, but it is fresh for me. My universe has suddenly become boundlessly vast.

What must God feel as he looks at us, holds us, lifts us and supports us?

To all the Grandparents, our Blessings abound.

Karl Kranz, President



Help needed for the live video stream of Sunday service

It's really easy....

1. Show up 3 minutes early (that's how long it takes to set up!)
2. Set up video device
3. After ending the video, make sure device is charging. Done.

Contact Lauren Johnson: 509-669-6862



October 5

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost / St. Francis Day and the end of the 2025 “Peace of Creation” observance with the Blessing of the Animals. [Bring your animals!](#)

October 12

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 19

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Pastor Barbara Rossing

October 26

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost / Reformation Sunday

Adult Forum: Introduction to *Our Kairos Moment: A Study Guide on Earth's Climate Crisis*



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 for information.

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.

October 10 - **EARTH STEWARDSHIP MOVIE NIGHT:** *Living with Wildfire*, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall.

October 20 - **IMMIGRATION/RACE & JUSTICE:** 6:00 p.m. Contact Alex 509-548-7012 for details.

October 22 - **EARTH STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:** 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

October 23 - **CHURCH COUNCIL:** 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Church Council September 2025



Treasurer's Report:

- Contributions remain steady at around \$9,000/month which is below budget of \$13,000/month. Typically year-end gifts make up most of the difference but prefer not to wait for that. We now have a pastor (rejoice!) and no rent coming in from the Tumwater rental.
- A 2025 housing allowance for Pastor Aaron was passed.

Pastor Aaron's Report:

- Pr. Aaron has met with various groups to develop relationship. He has also gone over the directory with John Schramm and Barbara Rossing in preparation for calling on individuals.
- He wants to focus on the mutual expectations found in our Ministry Site Profile and review them with all.
- At the beginning of each Sunday service, Pastor Aaron would like to start with a welcome and where he has seen the Faith community embody God's love (our mission statement) in the past week and prefers that others take over other type of announcements.
- There are many ideas brewing for adult forums. The first will be a series in Nov/Dec on the ELCA's statement on the climate crisis. Additional forums include the ELCA's *Faith and Civic Life*.
- He would like to start a Bible study on Wednesday mornings and perhaps a second one at night for working folks. TBA.
- Having received the Listening Teams' review from the Synod, Pastor Aaron has suggested that the council meet for a one-day retreat to dive into the findings. What kind of ministries are vital and needed in Leavenworth right now?
- Pr. Aaron meets each month with an *Eco Preacher* cohort and *Living Well During Climate Change* group.
- He is working on ramping up social media as well as creating new liturgies/music, the heart of his ministry.

Property Committee:

- New flooring in the Fellowship Hall, in! Now lighting needs upgrade.
- A plan is posted for a possible pastor's office addition, recommend 13'3" by 12'. Comments welcome.
- Tumwater parsonage in good shape.
- Dismissed Tumwater sprinkler winterization company and will do it ourselves.
- LED lights in sanctuary do not dim. Tossing around ideas for dimming.

Earth Stewardship Committee:

- Would like to extend a Low E challenge to other congregations. Documentary *Living with Wildfire* will be shown on Oct 10.
- Pastor Aaron would like to do a devotional series on Creation/Earth Care.

Old Business:

- Dinners for 5 or 6, planning and scheduling will be done by the Ellens.
- Discuss changing the Constitution to allow up to \$10,000 or a percentage of the annual budget, for expenditures without a congregational meeting. The ELCA National Assembly has had their constitutional review so this process can move forward.

New Business:

- Update our new Pastor on what committees do at Faith and share it with the whole church.
- The council has scheduled a day-long retreat for December 13 to review, discuss and incorporate into action planning the Synod's Listening Team report.

Next Council Meeting: October 23, 2025

Earth Stewardship Group September 2025



- Pastor Aaron joined our meeting. We were excited to learn that he has a keen interest in Earth Stewardship and Climate Change issues and has been participating in several groups that provide training and support to help address these issues in his work as a Pastor and leader.
- **Season of Creation:** Every year from September 1 to October 4, Lutherans join Christians all over the world to observe the *Season of Creation*. This year's theme is "Peace with Creation" and has been incorporated into our prayers and liturgy.
- **Blessing of the Animals:** Bring your animals to the church service on Sunday, October 5, for the special blessing of the animals on St. Francis Day!
- **Earth Stewardship Movie Night:** We will sponsor 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 we can take to decrease risk to our homes, neighborhoods and community. Mark your calendar for October 10 at 6:30 PM! All are welcome.
- **Devotional Series – Our Kairos Moment: A Study Guide on Earth's Climate Crisis:** There will be an introductory climate focused primer for this devotional series as part of the Adult Fellowship hour on Sunday Oct 26. Then, Pastor Aaron will be leading a Climate focused devotional/educational series on Friday nights November 7, 14, 21 and December 5. Mark your calendars!
- **Connecting with Indigenous Cultures:** Earth Stewardship is a long time core value of most indigenous cultures. On October 8, Barbara Rossing and Pastor Aaron will be going to the Colville Tribal museum near Grand Coulee as part of the P'Squosa River Connections group, in advance of Indigenous Peoples Day on October 13. Also on October 9, the movie "Fish Wars" is showing at WRI. This is an excellent film about indigenous communities working for fishing rights, leading to the Boldt Supreme Court Decision.

Next Meeting: October 22, 2025 at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall.



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

**PEACE
WITH CREATION
SEASON OF CREATION 2025**



Recycling information from Dawn Kranz....

It has been a number of years since Waste Management first informed its customers that only plastic bottles and jugs would be accepted in plastic recycling. After recycling most all plastic containers for many years, this has been a hard change. When I inquired about it a few years ago, they explained that plastic bottles and jugs are generally made of #1 or #2 plastic, whereas dairy product tubs, meat trays and so-on are made with #5 and other plastics that are far less compatible in recycling facilities. The USA has been working on its capacity to process all recycling rather than sending it overseas.

Stricter guidelines are making this possible. #1 and #2 plastic are the only types of plastic that are not problematic to recycle in our multi county area.

And now lately, to add to the confusion, we have #1 plastic clamshell packaging offered for our convenience. They come in many sizes, serve as doggie bags and to-go boxes, and hold everything from baked goods to snacks to charcuterie platters.

I asked the natural question: If clamshells are #1 plastic, why are they not recyclable here? Recycle Inland Northwest on behalf of Waste Management responded that

“While plastic clamshells—like berry containers—are often labeled with the recycling symbol, they are not accepted in Chelan or Douglas county recycling programs. The reason is that recycling centers sort by shape, not by the number or symbol. Only plastic bottles and jugs are recyclable in Leavenworth. Clamshells are made differently, resulting in a different bulk density than bottles and jugs. They often have sticky labels, break into tiny pieces and can mix in with the wrong plastics which lowers the quality of the recycled material. To keep our recycling system efficient and effective, we ask that clamshells be placed in the garbage.”

What can we do? Can we do with less or without? Might creative alternatives become rewarding? How can we call public attention to this situation? Is there a way to alleviate it?

Pastor Aaron suggested maybe a big, fun, colorful clamshell sculpture. It could be an Earth Day display. Or if one of us could locate an out of the area facility that accepts #1 clamshells, or other #s of plastic for that matter, we could transport saved up loads of these materials, say, once a year. For anyone who has comments or ideas to add here, the Earth Stewardship Group would love to hear from you.



Immigration/ Race and Justice Group (as received from Alex Schmidt)

Summary, September 16th, 2025

Present: Four of our members were able to attend. **Special Guest:** Aaron Musser, New Pastor at FLC

Mutual Support: Sacred time was provided to check in, support, and encourage one another,

1. Administration/Education:

- a. Current balance is \$3320. This does not include a recent check of \$500. Two contributions were received from friends of I/RJG
- b. Time was spent reviewing the revised budget for the **Lwth City Grant** which was recently submitted.
- c. **WAISN Deportation Defense Conference.** Ellen, Laurie, and Meleah were able to participate in this training on Thursday, Sept. 11th. Meleah graciously hosted the group in her home. The three participants spoke of what was new and beneficial. Much was reviewed.

2. Direct Support:

- a. **ESL and Citizenship** classes will begin in mid-October
- b. In a personal conversation, with a community member, the I/RJG found out that a friend of our group's husband was recently deported leaving his wife and two young daughters quite traumatized and distressed. The wife (a citizen) has two young daughters 11, (with significant respiratory issues) and 3. We were able to go and visit to find out details. He was detained at a Yakima check-in Sept. 3rd and is now in Mexico. The group decided to extend to her \$500 for insurance, medical, and utility bills. The mother is hoping to travel to Mexico with her two daughters in December for 2-3 months. The I/RJG will help in providing tickets. We will also accompany her to school, medical, and legal appointments as requested. (*P.S. The mother was visited again on Thursday, Sept 19th and was given the check along with assurances that we will help as we are able with future needs. He also went and visited at length with the principal of Alpine Lakes Elementary where one of the daughters attends, to make sure avenues of collaboration are open*)

3. Advocacy:

- a. Three of our group were able to attend and support the NW Immigrant Rights Project Solidarity gathering on Wednesday, Sept 17th.
4. Next meetings: Third Monday of each month: Oct. 20th; Nov. 17th; and Dec. 15th.



Tanzanian guests...

On Monday, September 22, we had the honor and joy of welcoming Pastor Ezekiel and Pastor Wilson from the Ulanga Kilombero Diocese in Tanzania! We shared a delicious potluck breakfast and learned about each others' ministry contexts. Grateful to walk shoulder to shoulder — bega kwa bega — with our Tanzanian siblings!

You are invited.....

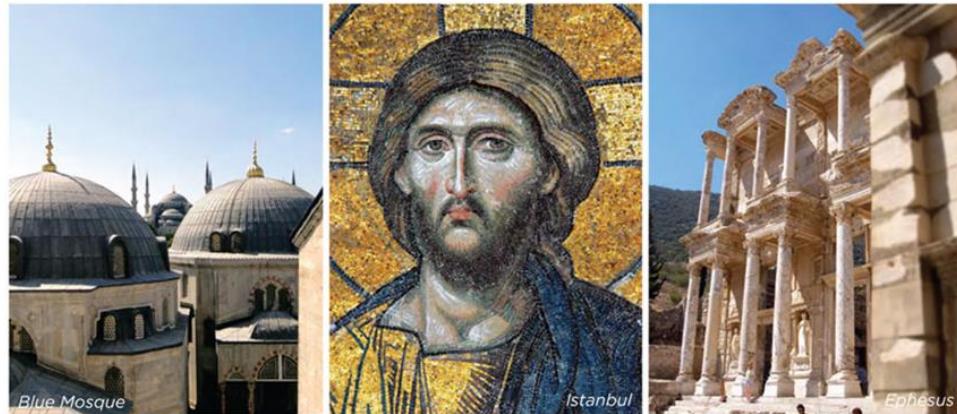
Pastor Barbara Rossing invites Faith Lutheran members and friends to join the Lutheran School of Theology's "World of the Bible" travel seminar to Greece and Turkey, May 21-June 7, 2026, co-led with Prof. Esther Menn. Here is a link: <https://tutku.travel/tour/world-of-the-bible-biblical-christian-jewish-muslim-sites-in-greece-turkiye>

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 brossing@lstm.edu for more information



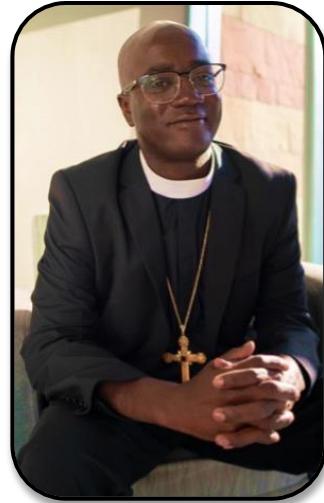
About Presiding Bishop-elect Yehiel Curry

The Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected as the next presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Ariz., on July 30, 2025. He will begin this role on Oct. 1, 2025 and be installed on Oct. 4 in Minneapolis.

Currently, he serves as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod, where he leads a synod staff and 160 congregations by providing pastoral care, preaching, teaching, administering sacraments, and overseeing ordinations and installations.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He and his wife, LaShonda, are the proud parents of three daughters.

Learn more about Rev. Curry in this article in Living Lutheran:
<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2025/07/casting-a-vision-for-the-church/>



On Holy Cross Sunday, September 14, a Celtic Cross belonging to the Caemmerer family was blessed and officially gifted to Faith Lutheran. Rich and Liz's daughter, Kathie Caemmerer Bach provided some of its history during worship.



Pastor Aaron Musser Installed at Faith Lutheran....

Pastor Aaron Musser was officially installed by Bishop Meggan Manlove as Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Leavenworth, on September 28 during worship. Local clergy from our synod were present for the special occasion.

After a festive potluck, Bishop Manlove led a forum focused on *Church Together* followed by Q & A session.



Move in Day!



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 October 24 for the November issue.

