



LIFE OF FAITH

APRIL 2026

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From our pastor...

Last year at this time, I was serving at a Lutheran outdoor ministry center in northern Illinois, helping steward land shaped by prairie, woods, and the rich diversity of soil and life they sustain. I had just finished writing an Ecological Stations of the Cross, a walk that invited campers to reflect on our vocation as earth creatures called into relationship with all of God's creation.

That same spring, the company next door flattened land along the border of one of the most vulnerable ecosystems in Illinois: a rare sandhill prairie, home to endangered plants and animals. On our Stations walk, that hill became the place where Jesus says, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." It was a painful reminder that Holy Week is not only about the past. It is also about the little crucifixions around us now: greed, shortsightedness, and the choices that sacrifice neighbors and creation alike.

A couple months ago, a colleague sent me photos from a prescribed burn there. Fire had cleared away invasive growth, making room for the deep bank of ancient prairie seeds to rise again through the ash. This, too, is Easter: life returning, hope pushing up from what seemed lost, creation beginning again.

I hope you will join us for the Three Days: Maundy Thursday, as we hear again Jesus' call to love one another; Good Friday, as we gather for the adoration of the cross; and Easter Vigil, as we light the new fire and proclaim once more that God's life is stronger than death. In these holy days, we enter again into the hope of God's promises.

In Christ,
Pastor Aaron





From our president...

A dear friend of mine died suddenly 2 weeks ago. His heart stopped. Prayers were answered and I had a good talk with him last week at UW Hospital. Good health, like the air that we breathe, is often taken for granted until either one vanishes.

What is the key to maintaining good health? There is a Library of Congress packed with opinions from all kinds of authors. It is clear that genetics play a very large role in determining our future. I took note of a large cohort of very healthy old patients with whom I worked for decades. These men and women shared the common denominator of growing up in the country, usually on a family farm. Fresh air, steady physical work, home grown foods and a large family seemed to be common threads. The majority of them took time on Sundays to worship at their various churches. They were living lives at 70 that a 50-year-old couldn't keep up with and at 89 were still leading the charge of pensioners.

Those of us that weren't lucky enough to grow up on a farm can perhaps look at the basics of farm life for clues. I believe time outdoors, exercise of any kind most days, a purpose in our lives, consuming non processed foods and knowing we are part of a supportive community all help build our own internal "Health Savings Account".

Sh*t happens. An unaware driver, a bad lift, an unexpected fall can all change our health status in a moment. The other characteristic I have noted in people that maintain their health is Resilience! "So, my left arm doesn't work but here is how I can continue to type and share my mind with the world". "Darn it, I can't run but by golly I can walk a long way."

Pursue Health! Be resilient! Eat well, pray often,
be outdoors and seize the day!

Karl Kranz



EVENTS

Click here for weekly and other April events

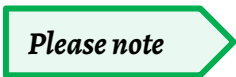
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April 8, 5:30 – 7:00 pm: This is the first Wednesday of a weekly study session during the season of Easter. We will study the new *Faith and Civic Life* social statement created by the ELCA. No pre-reading is required but you can peruse the statement here <https://faithleavenworth.org/public-policy/> to get a sense of the document if you wish.

April 12: Quinn Johnston, from Holden Village, will be visiting us in worship and providing opportunity to ask questions and hear updates about the unexpected evacuation of the village after worship.

April 18: Memorial service honoring the life of Faith member Lisa Therrell, 11:00 a.m., Wenatchee River Institute, Pr. Aaron officiating



Faith Lutheran will be part of hosting the reception. If you would like to contribute a fruit plate, vegetable plate or cookies/bars, please sign up at:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zUx_jFCnXQCZhiUX7Mx_I74i68OpqBzx36v00_9n90/edit?gid=0#gid=0

April 19: Don Haven will lead an adult forum on the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) after worship. Don serves as board chair for the North Central Washington affiliate and will share about NAMI's history and work in our 4-county area.



May 22: Earth Stewardship Movie Night

May 31: *The Icicle Calls Us*, film by Claire Seaman, Snowy Owl

June 13: FLC Garden Tour

Church Council March 2026

Pastors Report

- Pr. Aaron pointed out that the Council meeting went long last month and suggested that in the future we should make efforts to finish on time by 8:00 PM by prioritizing significant issues that need resolution and postponing other issues on the agenda if needed. All agreed.
- A council development retreat to help orient and incorporate new council members as well as spend time considering FLC's mission, values and our allocation of assets and resources was presented for consideration.
- NCW Channel Z is a website and google calendar that coordinates and promotes civic engagement in Chelan and Douglas Counties. It would be a logical place to communicate certain activities at FLC such as the Sunday evening song Circle. Aaron will work toward bringing in a speaker to our Adult Forum to provide information about Channel Z.
- Aaron has launched the new website for our church at faithleavenworth.org. Information has been moved over from the old website (FLC Leavenworth.com). This move has been necessitated by certain technical issues that could not be worked around. Aaron has spent a great deal of thought and time on the new website. It is very well done and looks great! Aaron explained it is still a work-in-progress and described other plans he has for continued improvement. For those who go to the old website, there is an easy link to the new site.
- Aaron's near-term focus is on preparations for Holy Week, Lisa Therrell's service and Synod Assembly. He is arranging for a preacher to cover for the Synod Assembly Sunday.

Treasurer's Report

- The treasurer was not present but provided updated Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss YTD Comparison, Restricted Bank Accounts, Budget YTD and Annual 2026 summaries in advance of the meeting for review. No discussion.

Property Committee

- Parsonage Propane tank was refilled.
- Narthex: Mary Steeber, Pat Thirlby and Greg Harris have developed plans to update and improve the Narthex area. Some reorganization and rearrangement has already been completed. Greg H. presented a proposal to build a new set of cabinets across the SW wall of the Narthex (left side as you enter from the street). Cabinets will have 2 spaces on the left to store the extra chairs and 3 additional spaces with shelves for other miscellaneous storage. The cabinets will have custom wood doors and the plan is to use a wood slab (to be cut from the ponderosa pine tree that fell down on church property during the recent December storm) to serve as the countertop. The cabinets will be built by Greg Harris so the only cost is for materials. The Narthex will also receive a new coat of interior paint. Total cost is estimated at \$1,300 to \$1,400. Council approved this project to proceed.
- Pastor's Office Addition: A Structural Engineer has visited the site to inspect the roof structure and will provide information for the roof addition design.
- Shades in the Sanctuary: The property committee plans to install interior shades on the SW window (facing the street) and the window behind the pulpit, to reduce glare at certain times for the video recordings.

Worship Committee

- Aaron is working with worship team members in planning for Maundy Thursday and Easter services. All is going well.

Earth Stewardship Committee

- Marlene Farrell from Sustainable NCW gave a presentation on March 15 at Adult Forum.
- Our Movie night on March 7 featuring *Canary* was well attended (10) and well received.

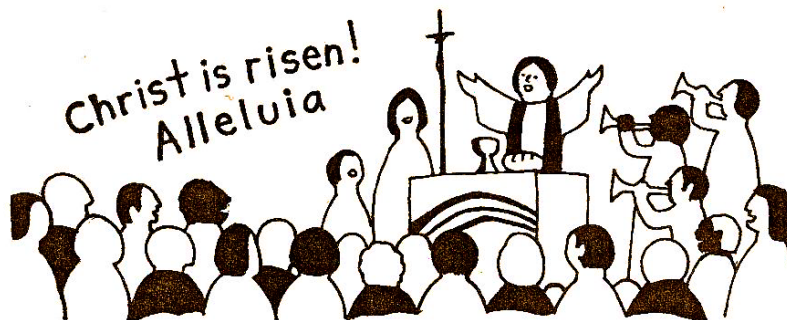
Old Business

- Dinners for 5 or 6 are in the host's hands and at least one dinner has been held.
- New Endowment Committee members are Karl Kranz, Ellen Farley. Deb Florea will continue. A continuing resolution of the committee will be discussed at a later meeting.
- Our constitution requires an annual review of our directory. Rosalyn has agreed to make calls and ask for updates. Aaron will reach out to new attendees.
- Facility use fees and Thrivent / ELCA account Users will be topics to discuss at next meeting.
- The first monthly MEND Free Foot Clinic in Fellowship Hall was a huge success.
- The Spring Fling is scheduled for March 21. All are welcome to come.

New Business

- Funding Pastor's Office Project: Moved to next meeting
- On-line Broadcast - Sound quality for video broadcast of our Sunday Services – Goals, equipment, time needs: Karl, Aaron and Reed will meet to discuss hopes, dreams, ideas, and gather ideas for solutions and costs and bring back to Council.
- Lighting in Fellowship Hall- Rosalyn and others would like improvements/replacement of the lights in the fellowship hall with new LED lighting. Rosalyn has friend in the lighting business. She will arrange a meeting with them and members of the Property Committee at the Fellowship Hall to discuss options and solutions.

Next Meeting: April 16, 6:00 pm



In the Easter liturgy we say YES to God's YES. We affirm - the way of Jesus is the way of God! Baptized into Christ, we follow. Alleluia!

ENDOWMENT GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Are there projects or organizations that you are involved in or on a Faith Lutheran committee that could accomplish something lasting with more funds?

Please consider applying for a grant from our endowment fund.



Applications are available in the fellowship hall outside the church office. Send completed applications to Debbie Florea, 204 West St, Leavenworth, WA 98826 by April 15.



EARTH STEWARDSHIP March

- We reviewed recent presentations; Marlene Farrell presenting Sustainable NCW, a remarkable local organization and Movie Night presenting *Canary*, a movie by a climatologist about change in climate and glaciers.
- Heather Murphy presented “Terminus Project” in downtown Seattle, along with Claire Seaman. This graphically represents changing glaciers.
- The next movie night will be May 22; *Hoppers* or *Lorax*, depending on the availability.
- There will be a presentation by Ridwell at the library on April 1, 10:30 to 11:15. This is a subscription company that will pick up plastic bags, old clothes and snack wrappers from your doorstep to recycle.
- Greg and Karl are working on a Low Emissions Sunday Challenge, to share with other congregations. Bike to Work Day is May 24 this year.
- The FLC garden tour will be June 13, starting at Faith. Please let Greg Harris or Karl Kranz know if you would like to have your garden included as part of the tour.
- Barbara will submit wording for the new plaque at the water bottle filling station to the City. The original was misplaced during construction.
- We decided not to sponsor a booth at the Earth Day fair this year but hope to do so next year.
- Our committee description is being updated for the new FLC website.
- We will use our funds to make a \$200 donation to Sustainable NCW.

Upcoming events

- Sustainable NCW-Chelan Co Resilience Summit: April 16, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- *The Icicle Calls Us*: film by Claire Seaman, May 31 at Snowy Owl
- Hatchery Salmon Release Party April 24, 2:30 to 6:30 at the hatchery
- Ridwell presentation at the Leavenworth Library: April 1, 10:30 to 11:15, RSVP at get.ridwell.com/leavenworth

Next meeting: April 21, 6:30

What can I do.....



COOL AND LOCAL CARBON FOOTPRINT WORK BY SUSTAINABLE NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON (NCW)

by Heather Murphy

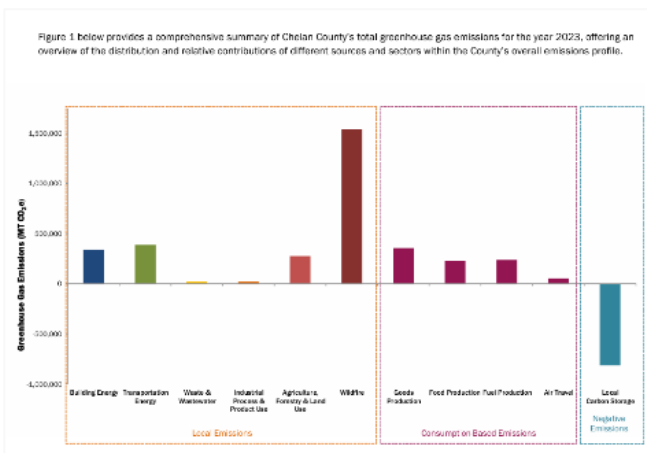
This is part of a series “What Can I Do About Climate Change” from the Earth Stewardship group at Faith

Some of us Earth Stewardship folks attended the January Wenatchee Valley College (WVC) speaker’s series on *What Our Emissions Tell Us*. Sustainable NCW’s Marlene Farrell, in collaboration with Joan Qazi of WVC, and other organizations and government entities, have done a baseline recording of **Greenhouse Gas Emissions** for the City of Wenatchee and for Chelan County. The highest Greenhouse Gas Emissions are from **VEHICLES**. Next was **HOUSEHOLD ENERGY**. This innovative approach to carbon footprint work is impressive. They will be able to measure changes in the future.

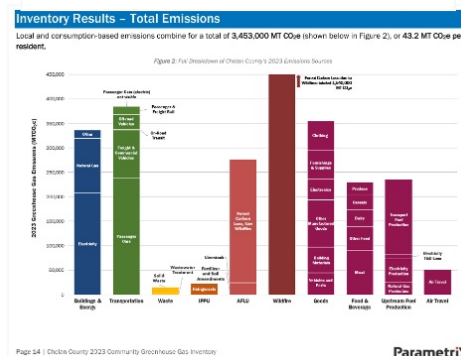
For us in Leavenworth, the notable difference between the emissions in the County and emissions in the City of Wenatchee, is **WILDFIRE SMOKE**. The smoke is releasing massive amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Sustainable forest management has a crucial role for our future. Please see the graph below showing that wildfire smoke is three-times what can be shown. Regarding household energy, we are very fortunate to have clean hydropower in Leavenworth and Chelan County. Hydropower tremendously reduces our carbon footprint. Other communities and states are more dependent on fossil fuels. In those communities, it is harder to change a home’s oil-furnace or gas heating into solar power for instance. Something we all have in common, we could each do better with our auto emissions.

These charts summarize Chelan County’s greenhouse emissions for the year 2023. Click here and see page 7 and 14 for a closer view.

https://www.sustainablencw.org/_files/ugd/9a6e88_6f297b5190004795b2a4f2d16934e380.pdf



Chelan County Greenhouse Gas Emissions graphs from Sustainable NCW www.sustainablencw.org/climate **Wildfire Smoke** shown in **Deep Red-Brown**.



The Wenatchee Valley College panel's top recommendation is to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and shift to alternative modes like TRANSIT, WALK, BICYCLE. Sustainable NCW has a good program called Waste Wizard, which can help us make smart choices. Please see [Recycling with the Waste Wizard | Sustainable NCW](#)

Questions and comments from the audience at the January WVC *What Our Emissions Tell Us* forum included three people from Faith's Earth Stewardship.

1. Barbara Rossing brought forth attending the 2025 United Nations Climate Change Conference (or Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, more commonly known as **COP30**) in Brazil during December 2025. The USA was not represented but various faith groups participated. She served as representative of the ELCA at the event. World political leadership is needed! Vote for Climate Conscious leaders. Barbara asked Sustainable NCW's Executive Director Marlene Farrell to present at Faith Lutheran Church. (Follow-up: Marlene came to FLC on March 15, 2026 with an inspiring presentation.)
2. Patrick Murphy commented on Carbon Capture, to bring CO₂ below Net Zero. (Keep your eye on this topic). We heard there is a program for Carbon Waste Capture, being sold back to local breweries.
3. Heather Murphy asked what Sustainable NCW can do to help Cascadia Conservation District acquire a large BioChar to have ZERO emissions from huge pile burning, especially at the Leavenworth City pits. BioChar has been used successfully at Tierra Learning Center and Camp Camerac and other small landowners. An industrial size would really help with citywide health for asthma, cancerous particulate matter and global health.

What can we do to help?

- Walk and bicycle more. Use public transport. Drive hybrid and electric vehicles. Carpool.
- Share community equipment. Re-gift good items no longer used. Recycle and compost.
- Take care of (steward) green spaces around us. Select native plant species for sustainable habitats. Support and participate in sustainable forest management.
- Engage with elected officials. Support leaders who help lower our carbon footprints.
- Check out <https://www.sustainablencw.org/climate> for action suggestions from Sustainable NCW.



Some people are not physically able to walk very far or ride a bike, but each person taking small steps in areas they are able will collectively make a huge difference. Here are some small things to start with:

- If your car runs on gasoline, plan meals so that you can commit to taking one less trip to the grocery store each week. Consider asking your neighbor if you can pick something up for them.
- Commit to using the Link bus <https://www.linktransit.com/> one time each month.
- Carpool with friends and neighbors for errands in Wenatchee.

Immigration/Race Justice Group (I/RJG) as submitted by Alex Schmidt
Summary, February 16th, 2026 at a member's home

Present: Six of ten were able to attend. The others were working or traveling.

Mutual Support: *Again, during our delicious soup and sausage dinner, we shared and supported one another with our stories with one another.*

1. Administration/Education:

- a. Our current budget account was reviewed. This past month we received two donations, one from a member and the other a friend of I/RJG. No funds were dispersed at this meeting.
- b. **Cultural Self-Awareness/Anti-Racism training** full day workshop will be held at Cascade Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Saturday, March 21st. Much work has gone into revising and shortening it to a one day event.
- c. **Upper Valley Indivisible** met Feb. 18th with over 100 in attendance. The i/RJG hosted a breakout session and there were 6 individuals who signed the interest sheet. Alex has contacted all and has visited those who invited him. Six others have shown interest and have been visited but could not attend our March meeting.
- d. Regarding the **City of Lwth Grant**, for reimbursement, receipts must reflect activities within the city limits. Much creative brainstorming took place on how we could reach out to find ways in which these funds can help our Lwth immigrant community members. Examples: school sports physicals and registrations, summer camps, swim team/lessons, and more. A member volunteered to follow up with Cascade School District and others. She was thanked for her vigorous distribution of our Family Safety and Security packets to individuals and institutions.

2. Direct Support:

- a. **The mother** and her two daughters who were going to come couldn't come to our meeting as she had an appointment with her counselor. She sends her greetings. The group has appreciated her efforts to thank us for the assistance she has received.
- b. **The AVID** (Advancement Via Individual Determination) classes, where we volunteered to help students with their scholarship applications, were summarized. We will continue next year.
- c. Currently our weekly **English class** has appx. 15 students. **Citizenship** has 3 but attendance has dropped significantly this past month.

3. Advocacy:

- a. New members were encouraged to sign up for Know Your Rights, Accompaniment, and Rapid Response trainings through WA Immigrant Solidarity Network <https://www.waisn.org> and/or Wenatchee for Immigrant Justice <https://www.wenatcheeformigrantjustice.org> Several already have.
- b. **A Signal Group test** will take place again as soon as more of the newer members take the trainings and download the app.

Next meetings: Third Monday of each month: April 20th then May 18th

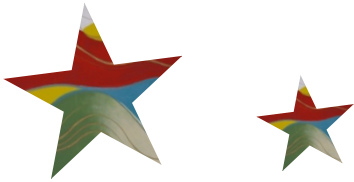


FAITH LUTHERAN SPRING FLING



The second annual Spring Fling was held in the Fellowship Hall on March 21. Fourteen local folks showed up to dance together - swinging to everything from Beach Boys to Abba. We laughed and clowned perhaps more than could be expected being the punch was simply virgin. We had singles, couples, intermediates and beginners feeling the beat, feeling the love and hoping we can welcome Spring this way every year.

Dawn Kranz





They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore (Isaiah 2:4)



ELCA Presiding Bishop Curry issued a statement on the Iran war on March 4, 2026. Read the full text here:

<https://www.elca.org/news/bishop-curry-issues-statement-on-iran-war>



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 April 27 for the May issue.