



From our pastor...

Since the weather is getting warmer, I've been trying to spend more time outside. So the other day, I took a Zoom call on my back porch.

I'm currently taking a class on great books, and this particular Zoom call was a discussion of Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *Discourse on Inequality*. In the first portion of the work, Rousseau writes a letter to his hometown in which he imagines an ideal republic: small enough that everyone knows one another and is able to enjoy spending time together.

Our professor raised the question: Does this actually sound ideal, having everyone in your business all the time? At that moment, I raised my hand to offer a reflection and a cat from the neighborhood appeared.

It wanted to jump up on my lap, and I blocked its way. Then it tried to jump up on the table where my computer was sitting. It succeeded, walked across my keyboard, and completely blocked the view of my webcam. Finally, the cat found a nice place behind the computer to sit.

I began reflecting on my recent move to Leavenworth and how I have appreciated living in a smaller community for some of the reasons Rousseau describes: seeing people regularly, being known, recognizing one another's lives as somehow intertwined. And the cat became a case in point. I'm grateful to live in a place where people feel comfortable letting their cats roam around and intrude on neighbors' Zoom meetings.

When I finished reflecting, the cat tried one more time to jump onto my lap. Blocked again, it disappeared as quickly as it had shown up.

I don't really have a point to this reflection other than gratitude: for being here in this community, for warm weather and for surprise cats.



From our president...



I had planned to write this month about the joy of spending time out of doors, in the light, in the dark, rain or shine, to feel the touch of nature and be immersed with all of our senses in the joy of Creation. But then came the Spring work party which eclipsed that natural wonder with the delight of being part of this Faith church body!

We are like a body, don't you know? Some of us are the hands, others the heart, the head, shoulders and feet. It takes all of these bits and pieces to get the work done and make a way in this most interesting world. Hearts may not be able to dig a hole but they can bring Love in the form of muffins. Thanks, Kate! Our little fingers are small but necessary and I saw small people with small tools doing big work in the church yard. Brute horsepower - the shoulders, the big guns of the church tackled the roots from ponderous Ponderosa root ball to tiny tenacious heather rootlings embedded deep in the soil. Out they came. A body needs to breath and Mike, the human tornado, came and blew debris artfully into a pile of paper yard bags.

We needed the head, too, with the pink paper manifesto that guided the other parts in their work, and in the end the church yard sparkles and the day was filled with dirt, joy and togetherness. Dirt Therapy. Thanks to all who came, worked, laughed, talked, supported our grounds and ideals. We are better together, God Bless.

Karl Kranz
Council President



EVENTS

May 3: Adult forum by Faith member Don Haven, president of NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness) which is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with mental illness and their families through support, education and advocacy, North Central WA

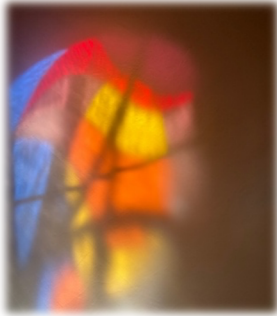
May 9: Sale to support teaching sewing skills in Guatemala (see below)

May 17: Catered luncheon after church for presentation of plans and cost estimate for new pastor's office

May 22: Earth Stewardship Movie Night *The Lorax* (see page 6 for details)

May 24: **Low E** and **Pentecost Sunday**

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



June 7: Congregational meeting to approve plans/spending for pastor's office

June 13: FLC Garden Tour

June 26: Movie Night: *The Icicle Calls Us Back: 11 P'Squosa Descendants' Wishes for Icicle Creek* by Claire Seaman, Fellowship Hall

July 27: "Miracle Sunday" fundraiser for pastor's office



Fewer than 50% of Guatemalan children complete the 9th grade. CEIPA provides education for working children grades 1 – 9, who live in poverty. CEIPA middle school three-year sewing program provides 75 students each year with an opportunity to learn to sew.

These skills:

- Help students support their families
- Provide job opportunities
- Establish their own tailoring business
- Give students and their families the means to stay in Guatemala

**CEIPA:
ECUMENICAL
CENTER FOR
PASTORAL
INTEGRATION**

Is a *Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)* that provides food and accompaniment to migrant children.

Opportunity to help Guatemalan families

Benefit sale for Sewing Project in Guatemala
Saturday May 9 11:00 – 4:00
Home of Laurie Peek: 516 Cedar St
Tamales and handwoven cotton napkins for sale

Church Council April 2026

Pastors Report

- New idea: provide a summer internship for a young church musician, maybe from St. Olaf, to play piano and help with worship in exchange for a stipend and a room. Possibly 10-15 hours-a-week. For summer 2027. Council agreed to the idea.
- Synod Assembly April 24-26
- Will attend St. Olaf Conference for church musicians July 20-22

Treasurer's Report

- Donations for March = \$11,000 (budget = \$13,500). Stable rental income and expenses as usual.
- The FLC Constitution suggests annual audits. Haven't done one in a while. Will see to it.
- Quickbook drama continues. Thank you, Kelly, for hanging in there.

Property Committee:

- Sanctuary HVAC repaired again. Scorched control panel. Storm? The company replaced the \$2000 panel since we have a 7-year warranty! Surge protectors will be installed on Monday.
- Narthex improvements: Painting in progress
- Free landscape consultation (thank you, Karl, who purchased this service at an auction and gifted to our church): Many ideas but the main takeaway was to make a deck out front near the new pastor's office rather than a patio and use native vegetation.

Financial Stewardship Committee:

- Church finances were reviewed and funding for the new pastor's office discussed.
- A committee to work on pastor's office finances will be created as well as a communication's team to keep congregation informed.
- 20K from the Capital Campaign was designated as seed money. Several donors have volunteered significant contributions already. Further plans include:
 - May 17: Host a catered lunch to present plans and estimated cost
 - June 7: Congregational meeting to approve plans/spending.
 - July 26: "Miracle Sunday" fundraiser

Old Business:

- An annual directory review is required per Constitution. Rosalyn is making calls.
- Discussed facility-use fees: 2026: evening (5pm-10pm) is \$100; whole day (8am-10pm) is \$250; repeated meetings (3 or more) 80% of above fees. A checklist of use expectations will be made and consider a cleaning fee. More discussion will ensure. No fee for members.
- Online broadcast improvements: Music can be heard better. Perhaps consider a new board on which audio and video could be operated on an iPad. Need more people trained on whatever system we have. Lauren has been solo. We need more committed tech folks.

New Business:

- Trailhead Ambassadors Opportunity: We have been asked to pick a weekend, a Sat/Sun., in which six FLC volunteers would either be at an assigned trailhead or river site to welcome and educate people. It would be a six-hour stint per day. \$2,200 for the church. A training session via video is required for all volunteer ambassadors.
- Church Picnic – no date set yet.
- Spring cleanup scheduled for April 25. Drinks and snacks provided. Bring gloves/tools.
- Schedule another council retreat?

Next Meeting: May 21, 6:00pm

SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT

from Barbara Rossing, May 2026



Faith Lutheran was represented at the synod assembly April 24-26 at First Lutheran Church in Kennewick, with Eric and Heidi Krumland, Pastor Aaron Musser and myself as voting members.

Our Bishop Meggan Manlove preached a great sermon. Pastor Aaron led a wonderful Song Fest Saturday night. Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry's synod assembly report emphasizes that we are a connected church, around the ELCA and around the world. Watch his video here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxWz_IMmV9s

Our pastor Aaron Musser and Pastor Sarah Toney serve as ambassadors for the ELCA program *Sumud: for Justice in Palestine and Israel initiative*. Along with program director Maddi Froiland they led a great workshop about the situation of Palestinian Christians living under Israeli military occupation. Watch this 5-minute video *Join Us! Sumud Working in Relationship* with words from Pastor Aaron and recent footage from a bishops' visit to Palestine: <https://resources.elca.org/sumud/join-us-sumud-working-in-relationship-video/>

Our Earth Stewardship resolution on *World Council of Churches Decade for Climate Justice Action* was adopted by the assembly, with 167 "yes" votes, 16 "no" votes, and 17 abstentions. Eric Krumland gave a powerful speech in support of the resolution, pointing out that folks of his generation are very concerned about climate change.

Related to climate and renewable energy, we have an exciting opportunity to help the Ulanga Kilombero Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania build a Solar Electric Kitchen, to replace the current hazardous wood-burning kitchen at the Tumaini Seminary. Our synod Global Mission Committee requests that each congregation contribute at least \$700 to this Companion Synod project, which will cost approximately \$75,000. This article provides information:

<https://nwimsynod.org/blog/2026419/i94mp91mowoojy9brxe723k3gqw7hv>.

It is a good reminder of how climate change is related to Global Mission as well as to World Hunger.

Denouncing the influence of right-wing Christian Nationalist movements in the USA was the subject of a memorial adopted by the assembly, requesting the ELCA to produce more study resources. I led a pre-assembly workshop attended by 80+ people, on ***Lamb Power, Not Armageddon: How to Critique Christian Nationalism with Revelation's Vision of Hope***. It was moving to hear from Lutherans in Moscow, Idaho, about how a local extremist church's dangerous assault on democracy and religious freedom harms people. Thanks to Pastor Aaron who recorded the workshop.



At the Eco-Faith Action team's workshop we premiered the trailer of a new video series available from the ELCA partner *Blessed Tomorrow*: <https://blessedtomorrow.org/faith-climate-film-series/>. I showed slides from the Brazil UN Climate Conference, which *Living Lutheran* magazine has posted:

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/mission-ministry/u-n-climate-conference-serves-as-a-wake-up-call/>.

More great news: Pastor Tim Stadem of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, reports that his congregation may want to be part of our Faith Lutheran Low-E challenge next year. Stay tuned!



EARTH STEWARDSHIP April

- 1) **Congregational Resolution from the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Decade of Climate Justice Action:** Barbara Rossing reports that this resolution, which was approved by Faith at our recent Annual Congregational Meeting, is being presented by various churches around the country to 9 Synod assemblies. Members of Faith attending the Northwest Intermountain Synod Assembly are prepared to speak in support of the resolution.
- 2) **Earth Stewardship Movie Night:** Our next Earth Stewardship Movie Night will be Friday May 22 at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We will be showing *The Lorax*, a 2012 film based on a book by Dr. Suess. This animated film follows Ted, a 12-year-old boy, who meets the Lorax, a grumpy yet charming creature who fights to protect his world. It offers a strong warning about the dangers of unchecked industrialization, environmental exploitation and consumerism. Snacks and drinks will be provided.
- 3) **FLC Garden Tour 2026:** The next FLC Garden Tour is scheduled for June 13. We will visit 3 or 4 gardens. If you are interested in including your garden on the tour or if you know of someone who we should contact, let Greg Harris or Karl Kranz know.
- 4) **Compostables/recycling/sustainability:** Dawn Kranz has prepared an informative one-page flyer entitled *Recycling Plastics in Chelan County in 2026*. Thank you Dawn for doing the research! Copies are available in the Fellowship Hall.
- 5) **The Icicle Calls Us Back: 11 P'Squosa Descendants' Wishes for Icicle Creek:**
This film was directed by Claire Seaman who received money from our Faith Lutheran endowment fund. The film lifts the voices of P'Squosa descendants as they share their hopes and connections to Icicle Creek. There are 2 opportunities to view this film:
May 30: Snowy Owl Theater. Tickets are free and can be reserved at the Icicle Creek Center for the Arts website: <https://icicle.org/>
June 26: Faith Lutheran Fellowship Hall at 6:30 pm.
- 6) **Join in on the Fun on Low Emissions Sunday!!** Coming back by popular demand, is "Low E Sunday"! On Sunday, May 24, Faith's Earth Stewardship Group is encouraging as many worshipers as possible to participate in our planned "Low Emission" commute to church at Faith Lutheran! For those who would like to participate in the fun, please plan to walk, skateboard, ride a bike, roller skate, drive an electric or hybrid car, or merely carpool with a friend to church that day to help reduce emissions! Low E Sunday is a fun way to promote awareness of Climate Change and how it affects God's Creation. But most importantly, please come to church any way you can. See you there!
- 7) **Connecting with Indigenous Peoples:** We are planning a field trip to visit the Colville Tribal Museum at Coulee Dam tentatively looking at a July 4 trip with July 25 as a backup date. Watch for more details to come!

- 8) **What can I do as an individual to help address Climate Change?** The Earth Stewardship Group continues to help people answer this question by presenting action ideas each month in the newsletter. We are drawing on the experience of people from our congregation and our community at large to describe real actions that can make real impacts. Take a look at Judy Derpack's article entitled *How Cascade School District works on a Sustainable Footprint* on page 8.
- 9) **Next Meeting:** May 19 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



ICICLE CREEK

PHOTO: CLAIRE SEAMAN

The Icicle Calls Us Back was created in close collaboration with the šnpəšq^w áwšəx^w, or p'squosa (otherwise known as the Wenatchi) Tribe, for Claire Seaman's MA thesis. In the film, eleven p'squosa descendants share their wishes for the future of nsiqəlt (Icicle Creek) in their homelands. p'squosa Traditional Territory ranges from the crest of the Cascade Mountains to the Columbia River in central Washington State, including the present-day Bavarian-themed town of Leavenworth, where Claire grew up. In the film, participants share their continued connection to their homelands, how working together to apply ancestral knowledge could help mitigate some of the impacts of climate change in the area, and what they hope to see for the future in the midst of uncertainty.



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

CASCADE SCHOOL DISTRICT EARNS GREEN RIBBON AWARD IN 2025

By Judy Derpack

Cascade School District (CSD) was recognized as a green ribbon School District in May 2025 for reducing its environmental impact, improving health and wellness and providing effective environmental and sustainability education. It was the only district to be selected by the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for the year and the third district east of the Cascades to ever be chosen, according to OSPI Director of Elementary Education Content, Denise Davis.

According to Tracy Edou, CSD superintendent, focus on the outdoors took off in 2019 when the Cascade High Sustainability Club asked the district to look at making changes, such as discontinuing the use of plastic sporks and improving recycling. As a personal story, my niece was a club member and made significant and specific requests to rid the district of Styrofoam.

The district continued to recognize, “outdoors” as a core value of the community and included it in its strategic planning. *We had to ask the question, how do you take the word “outdoors” and put it into action? What does that look like? And that led us on so many pathways,* said Edou.

CSD prioritized outdoor learning, improved the Rattlesnake Hill trail behind Icicle River Middle School, (which the district owns), utilized Kiwanis Park as an outdoor classroom for

Peshastin Dryden Elementary and rebuilt a greenhouse at Cascade High School.

As a large producer of garbage, they enrolled in a composting program with bear-proof cans. Those bears would really be fed well if the cans were accessible! Additionally, CSD installed a propane fuel station at the transportation department and yes, we got rid of those ugly plastic sporks:)



Regarding the composting initiative, the first group of students to be trained in sorting their garbage were the youngest students, at Peshastin Dryden Elementary School. Imagine hundreds of four to eight-year-olds being taught how to specifically sort their garbage before throwing it out! It was a big feat and took the whole year to train them, but they learned it! Now they are all six years older and are experts! And detailed education of the environment has been added to the curriculum throughout the district!

While visiting, Washington School Principal’s Education Foundation Managing Director, Greg Barker, presented CSD with a \$10,000 check to support continuing work in outdoor education.

Cascade School District is definitely leading the way. Your commitment to place-based learning is impressive and in environmental education, you guys are a model, said Davis.

As a Cascade School District Board member, I am very proud that we were able to gather the original ideas from our high school students, embed them in our strategic planning and move forward for the overall health of our students, community and environment!

Immigration/Race Justice Group (I/RJG) as submitted by Alex Schmidt
Summary, April 20th, 2026

Present: Nine individuals were in attendance.

Mutual Support: *We welcomed our guests and made time to support one another in our respective journeys.*

1. Administration/Education:

- a. Our current updated budget account was reviewed.
- b. **Cultural Self-Awareness/Anti-Racism training** full day workshop to have been held at the Cascade Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, March 21st was unfortunately canceled at the last minute. **This engaging and interactive one day workshop is available for organizations, businesses, schools, and congregations.**
<https://irjgroup.wixsite.com/irjg>
- c. One of our members did an excellent job submitting Endowment Application (for \$750) to Faith Lutheran, Lwth.
- d. Our application to be **Recreation Ambassadors** with the Lwth Chamber has been submitted for the weekend **JULY 11-12**. We will need sufficient help to maintain 3 recreation spots for two days, 2 individuals in each location. A 6 hour day. Our reward is \$2,200. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!** Details to be found on their website, or call Alex with your questions 509.548.7012. <https://www.leavenworthchamber.org/recreation-ambassador>
- e. **Collaboration with NW Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP):**
 - i. NWIRP is preparing a **webinar**, how to keep your employees safe during an ICE raid, for businesses in the greater Wenatchee Valley. Date yet to be determined. The Lwth Chamber has indicated to us that they will support and promote such an event through their newsletter and social media. The I/RJG will host an in person **watch party** during the event.
 - ii. **Immigrant/Refugee Worship Service and NWIRP Adult Forum:** On **Sunday, May 31st**, FLC will present a worship service focused on immigrant/refugee matters. Afterwards, at 11:00 a.m. NWIRP will lead a forum on immigration updates and Know Your Rights. The website on Know Your Rights is <https://vimeo.com/1061382248>. All kinds of additional NWIRP webinars is on recorded webinars linked to our website. Important information is contained within these websites. To be aware of current immigration policies, such resources are most helpful.

2. Direct Support:

- a. A family who we helped after their father was deported reports to us that they will be spending \$20,000+ to have a lawyer prepare paperwork for his hopeful return.
- b. Currently our weekly **English class** has approximately 15 students. **Citizenship** classes will end May 21st with the hopes that the 2 remaining students will be adequately prepared for their exam.
- c. There will be a **tamale and beautifully woven Guatemalen cloth napkins** fundraiser on **Saturday, May 9th, 11-4 p.m.** at her home (516 Cedar, Lwth). Napkins are \$8/ea, two\$15. This will support a non-profit school and skill center in Guatemala. Call soon to reserve your order! 509.387.0998
- d. **Collaboration with the Cascade School District:**

- i. **Sixth Grade Retreat:** CSD has informed us that their May retreat's fundraisers have come short **\$2,300** of the necessary funds. The I/RJG will provide this amount to the District. This fits well into our mission to support building relationship bridges and fostering community. Assistance will be for ALL students. Sixty percent of whom are Hispanic.
- ii. **Tech Insurance:** One of our members will hopefully establish a scholarship fund (by application) to help those students who find it difficult to pay the \$55 computer insurance which is now mandatory. First she will check with the District to see if there are any funds remaining in the Immigration programs.
- iii. We will check with **Sandy Zarate of the Sanzar Dance Studio**, Wenatchee, to see if funds are needed to provide **folklorico dance** instruction opportunities at the CSD.
- iv. It appears that the CSD does not have a need for financial scholarships for their sports programs.

3. Advocacy:

- a. Newer members were encouraged to sign up for **Know Your Rights, Accompaniment, and Rapid Response trainings** through WAImmigrant Solidarity Network <https://www.waisn.org> and/or Wenatchee for Immigrant Justice <https://www.wenatcheeformigrantjustice.org> Then you will be able to be on our Signal Group in case of ICE activity.
- b. **A Signal Group test** will take place again as soon as more of the newer members take the trainings and download the app.
- c. Consider donating to reputable Immigration advocacy agencies: NWIRP and Global Refuge.


Next meetings: Third Monday of each month: MAY 18TH, 6 p.m. at Ellen's (with Tequila!), then JUNE 15th at Meleah's. Please be so kind as to **RSVP if you are NOT** able to attend to inform our hostess in their food preparation.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR SARAH AT CELEBRATION LUTHERAN IN WENATCHEE...



Dear Pastor Aaron & Faith
Lutheran!

Thank you so much for hosting
Mardi Gras in your wonderful
space for all the local Lutherans!

Thank you for setting up tables,
decorating, baking, cooking, cleaning,
doing SO MANY dishes, and all the
fun. I am grateful for the
fellowship and hospitality.  Pastor
Sarah's
celebration

THE NARTHEX PROJECT

The first phase of the narthex remodel has now been completed. Our property committee repaired the walls and prepped for painting. Nicholas Osborne and Vanessa Shuh completed the painting.

The next phase includes cabinets being built by Greg Harris. He and Karl Kranz are preparing a board from the tree on our property that fell in the December storm to be used for the top of the cabinets.

Thank you!

KARL KRANZ, GREG HARRIS AND GREG STEEBER

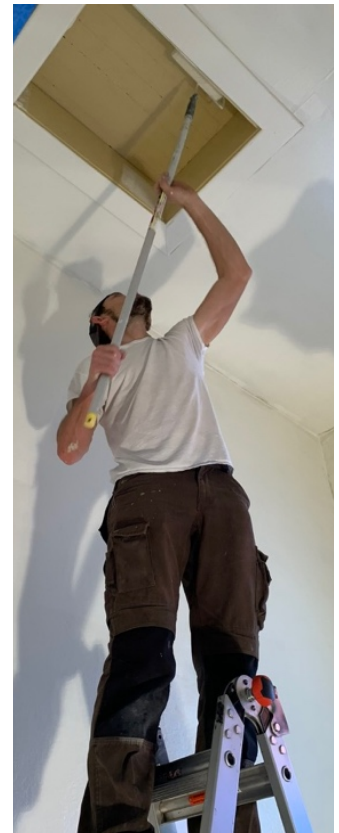


And....

Thank you!

NICHOLAS OSBORNE AND VANESSA SHUH for painting those very tall walls. It took some nimble ladder work!

Of particular note, Nicholas is Rosalyn Francis's son who was baptized at Faith 30 years ago!



THANK YOU FAITH LUTHERAN QUILTERS!!



Quilts made by our quilting group were displayed and dedicated on April 26. They will be boxed up and brought to the Lutheran World Relief collection center in Seattle. From there they will be shipped to various places throughout the world.

We dedicate these Quilts to your service, trusting that your love will go wherever each is sent, making it more than just a piece of material, but each piece we have created an expression of love. May these be used in your service and become blessings for all those who receive them.



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 May 22 for the June issue.

