



LIFE OF FAITH

SEPTEMBER 2026

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From our pastor....

This summer I watched the waters of Puget Sound move. Around the islands, the tides do not simply rise and fall. Currents swirl around the land, mixing water and nutrients and creating conditions for an abundance of marine life. These are, quite literally, living waters: waters filled with life.

We know living waters here, too. High above us, snowmelt gathers in alpine lakes and streams before cascading down the mountainsides. nsíqəlt (or, Icicle Creek) flows through the valley into the Wenatchee River, which joins the Columbia, whose waters eventually find their way to the Pacific Ocean. We live within this great movement of water.

This September, Christians around the world will celebrate the ecumenical Season of Creation under the theme "Living Water." The theme comes from a strange and beautiful vision in the prophet Ezekiel. Water begins trickling from the temple of God. As it flows, the trickle becomes a stream and the stream becomes a river. Trees grow along its banks. Fish swarm in its waters. Fruit provides food and leaves provide healing. "Wherever the river goes," Ezekiel tells us, "every living creature that swarms will live."

Then, Ezekiel is invited to step into the water. First it reaches his ankles. Then his knees. Then his waist. Eventually the water becomes so deep that he can no longer cross it. The theme for this year's Season of Creation is therefore not simply Living Water, but Immersion in Living Water.

As Lutherans, we know something about being immersed in water. At the font, ordinary water is joined to God's promise and we are washed into a life of grace. Baptism reminds us that we belong to something much larger than ourselves: to Christ, to one another and to this whole beloved creation through which God's goodness continues to flow.

During this Season of Creation, we might pay attention to the waters around us. Notice nsíqəlt. Notice the Wenatchee River. Notice the water running from the faucet and remember the mountains from which it came. Notice the plants, animals, farms, forests and people whose lives depend upon these waters.

For God's living water does not stop at the doors of the sanctuary. It flows outward. And the Season of Creation invites us to flow with it – receiving God's abundant grace and becoming, ourselves, participants in God's healing and renewal of creation.

In Christ,
Pastor Aaron



From our president...

I lift my eyes to the hills!

When I knew everything about everything back in my University days, I had no time for church or organized religion. I did have time for hiking and found wonder and solace and what I thought were all the answers to the great mysteries in the backcountry. I was lost a few times, too.

Now that I am a septuagenarian and have had my cataracts and preconceived ideas removed, I see so much more clearly! God is alive, Jesus has risen and He is in the mountains, the woods, our Faith Sanctuary. Indeed, He is everywhere that I care to look.



And why do I now have time for church? Community, Fellowship, the need for a map and a guide to navigate the twisted trails of our chaotic times, found in our small colorful center of worship. Hallelujah!

Karl Kranz

Council President





Every Wednesday

Bible study from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. with Pastor Aaron. All are welcome. No preparation required. No homework and doesn't matter how familiar you are (or aren't) with the bible. Come for conversation and fellowship around the biblical texts assigned for the next Sunday. Bring friends!



September 3: 3:00 pm via zoom – click below to receive link



Join Northwest Intermountain Synod Bishop Meggan Manlove to talk about the biggest thing shaping the future of humanity in our lifetime: the sun. This virtual event encourages participants to theologize all energy as sacred gift, understand how solar is changing lives around the world and witness a solar-powered congregation in our synod.

This zoom conversation is organized by the NWIM EcoFaith Action Network, a group of curious people joyfully living into a life of Earthcare as faithful witness. Bill McKibben will be featured in video clips from a webinar earlier this year (facilitated by FLC member Barbara Rossing) that featured his latest book *Here Comes the Sun*.

[Click to register and receive the Zoom link](#)



September 11: Bishop Gretchen Rehberg from the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane will be the featured speaker at the commemoration of 9/11 in Cashmere. She was an EMT in New York attending seminary and helped with the rescue which caused her to have severe lung damage and has since received a double lung transplant and is healing well. Come and support her as she delivers the main address on this 25th anniversary. Cashmere Riverside Park / 11:00 a.m.



September 11: Movie Night, 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
Join Faith's Earth Stewardship Group to watch *The Sheep Detectives*, a new live-action / animated take on Leonie Swann's novel *Three Bags Full*.



Kindly shepherd George Hardy (Hugh Jackman) doted upon his flock, going so far as to read to them from mystery novels. It would pay off the day he was found tragically slain – and his woolly charges decided they could outdo the local constabulary by finding his killer.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING August

Pastor's Report

- Installing 8 new members on Sept 6. Council will host reception after worship.
- A new season called, 'Season of Creation' is September 6 to October 4. This year's theme is *Living Water* using harvest/creation imagery.
- Need to review donation options on Faith's website
- Church directory. We are planning to move forward with a password-protected online directory which can be done for free through *The Planning Center*. Each Sunday in September, Pastor Aaron will be available after worship to show people how to use it. It is linked to *mail chimp* which is used to send out the newsletter and Happenings. Try it out: faithleavenworth.churchcenter.com. Here you can change your address, add your email, etc. More to come!
- Pastor Aaron will be in Chicago the first weekend of October for a wedding and New York City at the end of the month for a conference. Pastor Barbara Rossing will do pulpit supply.
- Wednesday morning Bible studies in these last three weeks have had great attendance.
- Thinking of establishing a sibling parish idea where we would walk beside a congregation(s) outside our synod. Example: Palestinian Pastor Adham from Arabic Lutheran Church in El Cajon, CA has requested we join forces somehow.
- Planning an ecumenical christening of baby Elora at Camp Camrec in October. Stay tuned.

The theme, *Living Water*, is drawn from Ezekiel 47:9- 12 which portrays God's life-giving water flowing from the temple of God. The river grows deep restoring barren land, reviving waters and sustaining ecosystems. The vision invites human responsibility: recognizing ecological damage and embracing interconnectedness, we are called to immerse ourselves in the water and actively safeguarding and working for the renewal of creation so that environmental healing and human well-being may flourish together.

Treasurer's Report

- Grateful for solid response to *Raise the Roof with Faith* with pledges now at \$126,000.
- Contributions to the Capital Campaign, *Faith Moving Forward*, continue on schedule.
- Giving was slightly under budget for the month. Expenses are increasing as construction begins.

Property Committee

- Good progress on pastor's office with earth work and foundation now completed.
- Construction work crew planning. There will be need for volunteer construction workers as project continues. We will create a group text announcing project assistance needs. If you wish to help, please let Karl or Greg know to add your name to the text. There will be many jobs - from making sure all workers are hydrated and fed, to painting, to hammering, to massaging shoulders, to daily clean up and it goes on and on. All are welcome.
- Electrical upgrades and panic bars on exit doors in the sanctuary are completed and up-to-code.
- New church insurance: State Farm underwriting in process.

Worship Committee

- Advent and Christmas plans: Midweek Advent soup suppers (6pm), Holden Evening Prayer (7pm) followed by a Pastor Musser-led Advent hymn sing. Christmas Eve services will be 4:30 and 8:30 p.m. Christmas Day service will be at Mountain Meadows at 10:00 a.m.

Earth Stewardship Committee

- Barbara drafted a letter that Pastor Aaron sent to the legislature via *Faith Action Network* requesting that they vote to legalize 'plug-in solar' (from home to energy grid).
- River Ambassadors recognized the need for the City to supply can and bottle recycling drop-offs located at river take-outs. Work on this.
- Newsletter articles about what people can do at home for the health of the planet are needed.
- We are in communication with the Cascade School District concerning the solar panels at Icicle River Middle School.

Old Business: none

New Business:

- Considering homemade Advent "calendars", wreath making and lefse event before Christmas. Stay tuned.
- Oktoberfest Ambassadors coming around again. If interested, contact Greg Steeber. Stay tuned for more details.
- Pastor Aaron's annual review coming up led by the President, V.P., Treasurer and Secretary. Will be a reciprocal conversation based on the letter of call.
- Nominating committee to start thinking of January council elections.
- Fellowship Hall lighting idea generation – Rosalyn and Reed lead.

Next Meeting: September 24, 6:00pm



Existing Wood-burning Kitchen



Future Solar-powered Kitchen



SOLAR KITCHEN FOR TUMAINI LUTHERAN SEMINARY

Our synod has pledged to provide 100% of the funding for a new SOLAR ELECTRIC COOKING SYSTEM at the Tumaini Lutheran Seminary, a secondary school in Malinyi, Tanzania, overseen by the Ulanga-Kilombero Diocese. Over 250 students and staff are fed from this kitchen three times daily when school is in session.

The solar kitchen will eliminate 100% of the harmful emissions produced by the existing wood-burning kitchen, including carbon monoxide and formaldehyde. The solar

kitchen contractor and engineer are scheduled to complete the installation by September 30, 2026.

The updated cost of the solar kitchen is projected to be approximately \$77,000 after carbon offset credits are applied. Faith Lutheran has gifted the proceeds from our Recreation Ambassadors volunteer work for the city towards this project. Additional donations are always welcome and can be made online through the DONATE link on the NWIM Synod website www.nwimsynod.org. Indicate the contribution is for Global Mission: Tanzania. Alternatively, checks can be mailed to the NWIM Synod office, noting the funds are for the UKD Solar Kitchen.

IMMIGRATION/RACE JUSTICE GROUP (I/RJG) *as submitted by Alex Schmidt*

Facilitator: Another member as Alex was out of town

Notetaker: A volunteer

In attendance: Seven members were present

Education: Discussed talking points for Leavenworth Echo article.

- 1) Education... information packets “know your rights”, tabling at events, public outreach
- 2) Individual Assistance for families and students... housing assistance, medical bills and medical emergencies, schools fees including high school driver education program, library/computer/tech and camp fees.
- 3) Accompaniment...immigration court. “Walking along side people that are faced with challenges.”
- 4) Training...Rapid Response with ICE in partnership with Wenatchee for Immigrant Justice and Wa. Immigrant Solidarity Network, anti-racism workshops.
- 5) Emotional support

Actions: One of our members was interviewed by Taylor Caldwell (Lwth Echo). The above would be the talking points. Hopefully she will also speak with Alex. Agreed to provide her with “Immigrants Welcome” packet, list of grants we have received along with any other relevant materials.

Budget: Current budget was discussed. Does not includes \$2,200 for River Ambassador Program nor \$1,600 for reimbursement for Driver Education Program from Leavenworth City Grant.

Grants.....I/RJG reapplied for Leavenworth City Grant and waiting for response.

Anti-Racism Presentation.....discussion on how to outreach this to the community and perhaps make it into a social event. Possible attendees could include Upper Valley Indivisible, Unitarian Church, Wen Methodist Church, Wenatchee Confluence Indivisible, local business owners, student organizations, IRJG members...other partners? It was agreed that we will need to wait till after November Election. Channel Z to help with outreach. A member offered to make flyers. It would be nice to have RSVPs.

Action: I/RJG will continue the discussion on next steps.

Dia de los Reyes...January 2nd. Discussion that last year’s format with table and materials felt “too serious” and attendees did not feel comfortable approaching IRJG members. This is a festival and IRJG involvement should align it’s involvement with that in mind! Discussion followed on how to best participate. Ideas generated.. have candy, balloons, noise streamers and other party favors that are attached with cards that might read “do you need assistance”with our details. This could be at a table or circulate with “favors” in baskets.

Action: Group agreed to donate \$150

High School Fees and Support... discussion on how we might set up an application process for student fees, including the \$55 lap top fee. The premise being that we set up a “matching process” with students applying for these monies and providing some sort of match towards IRJG support. This approach has all parties taking some form of monetary responsibility.

Action: A Cascade School District I/RJG member will begin development of application process

Update with Sandy Sarate (Danzas Multiculturales).....Due to schedules, there has not yet been a chance to meet with Sandy. We would like to support cultural enhancement for Middle School students thru music and dance. Is it possible to provide a 2-3 month grant to support this commitment? Idea of shorter commitment with Sandy and students. We like the idea of culminating with a final dance performance. Would like dances to reflect regions that students can relate to.

Action: A member will ask the bilingual program director about a \$2500 match for folkloric dance. She will also inquire on the where-about’s of costumes that the migrant program purchased.

River Ambassador Program... agreed we will volunteer next year.

Actions... A member will apply and work with chamber for 2027 program. We agreed that we will commit to July 17 and July 18 dates. In May, we will also secure commitment from 18 year olds of the CSD Unidos club. Sign up remaining volunteer slots by end of May. Need 6 people for each day.

Direct Support... Endeavor to set up a meeting with Sandy. MEND covers pool vouchers so no need for IRJG to be involved. One of our community members who just had an “uneventful” ICE check-in does not need direct support at this time. Another CM whose husband was deported in September is as well as can be expected, lamenting the separation of her husband and the two daughters’ father.

Next Meetings: Sept. 21st, October 19th, for details call Alex 509.548.7012.



A Message from Lutheran Disaster Response:

Dear friend,

Communities in Nepal are facing catastrophic loss after deadly, devastating floods. On Aug. 26, powerful floodwaters carrying glacial ice and mud swept down the Himalayas through a mountain valley. Hundreds of people have died and hundreds more remain missing. Homes have been destroyed, roads and bridges are gone and entire communities are struggling to access basic necessities.



Our hearts break for all those affected. Even with limited communication from the affected area, we are already hearing tragic stories of loss. Lutheran Disaster Response has long-standing relationships with trusted partners throughout Nepal. With your help, we will support emergency relief and long-term recovery through these established partners who know their communities best.

In moments like these, when people are suffering, God calls us to accompany our neighbors. Through your generosity, we offer practical support, compassionate care and hope to communities facing overwhelming loss. Your gift will help Lutheran Disaster Response show up swiftly and faithfully as this crisis unfolds.

[Click here to donate now to Lutheran Disaster Relief](#)

Thank you for being a compassionate partner in this ministry.

In Christ,
Maryn Olson

Director, Lutheran Disaster Response
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Life of Faith...

Footings for the new pastor's office.....electrical upgrades....panic bars on exit doors....new steps to sanctuary, concrete pours, inspections, large orders at Marsons Lumber and much more. It is all in the works and clearly there is a big mess in our church yard!





Thank you.....

Dawn Kranz, pictured here, as well as Karl Kranz, Carl and Deb Florea, Ellen Farley, Barb Rossing, Lauren Johnson and Pastor Aaron for serving as Recreation Ambassadors for the City of Leavenworth. The amount of \$ 2,200 received for these volunteer hours will be a contribution towards a solar electric cooking system at the Tumaini Lutheran Seminary in Malinyi, Tanzania.



"The church was so pretty tonight" says FLC friend Molly Nagel. "I like this photo because it shows that the church isn't a static building but alive with conversation and engaged people." It was an evening with Pr. Adham Alaraj from Palestine on August 13.



From Dawn Kranz....

In the last week of July, FLC members Leesa, Karl and Dawn had the pleasure of exploring the Chiwaukum Range, Frosty Pass and Ladies Lakes together with 5 other hikers. This high wilderness lies between Leavenworth, Stevens Pass and the end of Icicle Road. With *Icicle Outfitters'* mule string carrying the tents, sleeping bags, kitchen and food, we carried only light packs and averaged 6 to 9 miles a day. Highlights of the trip included getting up to Deadhorse Pass and looking down on Cup and Larch Lakes in their almost unreal jade and sapphire colors—stream laced meadows deep in wildflowers—swimming in beautiful Lake Florence—fresh mountain breezes—and hilarious jokes back in camp. Please talk to me if you have interest in joining this kind of adventure. Participants in their 80's are not uncommon.



Church Picnic Fun!
Thank you Mara, Adam and Ellen for hosting!!





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 September 25 for the October issue.