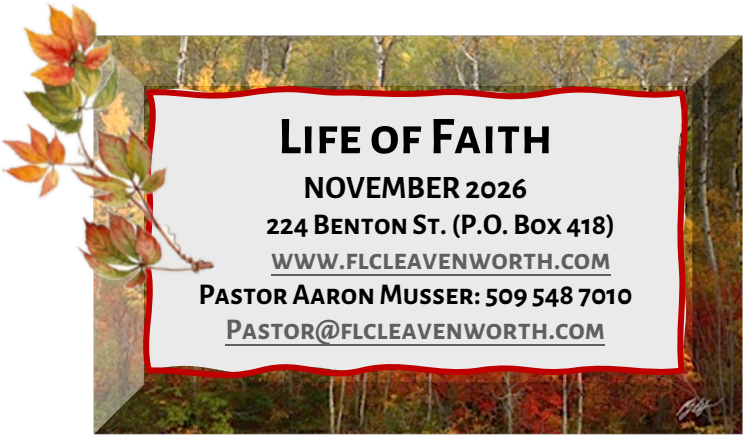


From our pastor....

November is the church month that nobody knows what to do with. In my worship planning materials, the rest of the year is grouped according to liturgical seasons (like Advent, Lent, or Epiphany). Even summer and autumn are grouped by season, and then there's just a section called "November."

"November" starts and ends with holy days, so it seems that it should be its own thing. We observe All Saints' Day on the first of the month, honoring ancestors and dear ones who have passed on from this world to join the great cloud of witnesses. The month ends with the acknowledgment that Christ reigns as the sovereign power over death, giving abundant life to all things.

Over the years, there's been an argument that this strange month should be part of an extended Advent, because the readings throughout December strongly resonate with those in November. Many scripture passages we'll encounter in November are about staying alert and noticing the many moments of God's breaking-into our world in love (the time is always near when Christ will come again). But the church remains undecided and generally open to November being whatever it is.

And so, if these days you're not sure exactly what to do with this November, be assured that the church doesn't always know either! In moments of uncertainty, our encouragement is to stay alert to the moments when God's love breaks through, and to rest assured that the life of God holds all things, in this world and the next.

In Christ,
Pastor Aaron

From our president.....

We Build!



Over the millennia digging caves, leaning stick upon stick for a hut, stacking rocks, then using blocks, then assembling marble marvels have intrigued humans and brought us shelter, culture and religious sanctuaries. Now we have come to build with lumber, cement siding and green Zip system boards, connected in clever ways to separate the outside from the inside and shelter us.

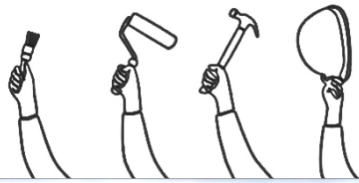
Less visible, but at least as important, humans build communities. Church communities, family connected groups and civic organizations. This Autumn I have noticed our community 'construction workers' in action. Empty Bowls project is in full swing, Mountain Meadows has a huge base of support, which helps maintain structure and belonging for our elders and our own Tina Rieman was featured at Elderspeak this last week, a local program which filled most of the seats at the Snowy Owl Theater with a celebration of accumulated life wisdom.

Families labor to build good families! When you have a spare hour ask me about the joys of being a grandparent, the new vision as I gaze ahead through new generations, the lost memories that leap to the surface while gazing at an infant, the satisfaction I feel as other grandparents share photos and stories of their offspring.

I am pleased with our own construction project, I delight in the life in our Leavenworth Community but I am most thrilled with the energy I feel in our Faith Lutheran gatherings. Simple endeavors that bind us together like quilt making, the Halloween haven for chilled trick or treaters, the quiet togetherness of the book group and Bible Study mornings are markers for the good that is happening as we move together.

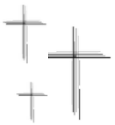
We build, we sing and we pray. Hallelujah!

Karl Kranz, President





What's Happening...



November 1: *ALL SAINTS DAY*
Service of Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.
(REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCK BACK!)
Rev. Aaron Musser, preaching and presiding

November 8: Service of Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.
Rev. Aaron Musser, preaching and presiding

November 15: Service of Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.
Rev. Aaron Musser, preaching and presiding



November 22: *CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY*
Service of Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.
Rev. Aaron Musser, preaching and presiding

November 29: *ADVENT I*
Service of Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.
Rev. Aaron Musser, preaching and presiding



Pastors and deacons in the ELCA are required to attend a First Call Theological Education conference in each of the first three years of call. Pastor Aaron will be attending this year's conference November 2 – 5 at Seabeck Conference Center on Hood Canal with the theme: *The Spiritual Gift of Administration.*





CONIFOR SWAGS and COOKIE DECORATING

Sponsored by Earth Stewardship

Sunday, December 6, 10:45 a.m.

The Earth Stewardship Group will collect native species of conifers, shrubs and cones and help participants create cheery Christmas swags to take home for the holidays. Additionally, Mara Merritt will facilitate cookie decorating for all ages!

Mark your calendar and plan to come!

Faith Lutheran Altar Guild

The Faith Lutheran Altar Guild is a group of 7 people who prepare communion for worship each Sunday, clean up and transition our worship space for various seasons of the church year as needed. The schedule is made annually with members working in groups of two each month. With 7 members, each person takes 3 to 5 months each year whenever their schedule allows. The group is very flexible and covers for each other when unexpected personal commitments come up. There are typically two in-person meetings during the year to share ideas and experiences and plan festival seasons (Easter and Christmas).

New members of the Altar Guild are welcome. The next meeting is November 11 at 11:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Please come even if you might not be ready to commit to working on the Guild. We would welcome the opportunity to share more about what we do.

Altar Guild

Would you be interested in serving on Faith's Altar Guild?

Please contact Mary Steeber at mary.steeber@gmail.com or 651 278 4567



Dozens of quilts created by our quilting group were blessed in worship on Sunday, October 25 with this concluding prayer:

God, be with our neighbors who will receive these gifts. May they be wrapped in love, may they taste your goodness, may they touch signs of your hope. Whether or not we know their names or where they live, they are our neighbors, our brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the One who is our hope. Amen.





CHURCH COUNCIL October

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Aaron will be in New York from Oct 20 – 30. Pastor Liv Larson will preach and preside in his absence. He will attend his *First Call Theological Conference* Nov 2 – 5.
- Pastor Aaron is coordinating with Mountain Meadows to provide a Christmas Day service and is getting our Christmas services schedule into the Echo.

Treasurer's Report

- Updated FLC Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss YTD Comparison, Restricted Bank Accounts and Budget YTD and Annual 2026 summaries were provided in advance of the meeting for review.
- Total assets are down only slightly from the previous month, due primarily to expenditures on the Office Addition building program. In general, our bank accounts look good.
- Reserves invested in CD's have continued to roll over into new CD's as we are currently paying the bills for the remodel work from new funds designated for that purpose.
- Income and Expenses: Contributions are currently about $19,000 behind budget but this is not unusual at this time of year. The expense item out of the ordinary was Pastor Aaron's pre-arranged 1 year bonus which he qualified for after completing his first year of service at Faith!
- We plan to again provide weekly reminders of the current status of our contributions vs budget in the bulletin, *Happenings* and the monthly newsletter.
- Insurance for our Pastor is through Portico. Portico has announced a 15% increase in premiums next year (i.e. an increase in the range of $1,000 to $1,500 for Faith). Also, the Synod is recommending a 3.5% COLA for compensation next year.

Property Committee

- Office Addition & Building Improvements Project.
    - The project is going well. The addition is weathered in so construction can continue to completion during winter.
    - Roofing work is expected soon. Siding work will begin soon but cannot be completed until windows and doors arrive.
    - Work will be underway soon for some of the interior work so there will be a bit more dust and disruption to contend with. Please be patient.
- Work on doors and panic bars in sanctuary is completed.
- Covered Walkway. The work on the planned new covered walkway between the kitchen and the rear stairway entrance to the church may be delayed till springtime as the work effort is focused on getting the Fellowship Hall and new office completed.
- Electric Vehicle Charging at the Parsonage. Pastor Aaron is considering a possible electric vehicle in the future. It was agreed that there should be adequate space in the Electrical Panel at the parsonage to accommodate a car charging station there, if and when it is needed.

Earth Stewardship Committee

- Earth Stewardship group has offered to work with Pastor Aaron to bring an Iona Abbey Eco Communion service to Faith at some time in the future.

Nominating Committee: The committee (John Schramm, Leesa Broker, and Barbara Rossing) is working on nominations to various positions in preparation for the upcoming annual meeting.

Old Business;

- Directory – Aaron can print a directory (spreadsheet form) based on the information that has been entered into the new on-line directory, if it is needed.

- Funds raised by Faith Lutheran from recent Leavenworth Recreation Ambassador program events ($2,200) will be donated to the school in Tanzania for their solar kitchen.
- Pastor's annual evaluation will be scheduled in November.
- Ellen says all is going well as she has taken on coordination of the Free Pantry.

New Business:

- Congregational Retreat(s):
    - Aaron has had some discussion with other local ELCA churches about a possible joint congregational retreat, possibly in February. There have been no recent updates on this.
    - Preliminary discussion around a congregational retreat for just Faith Lutheran for the full congregation, possibly in April. More discussion to come.
    - Discussion that two congregational retreats in one year may be too much. More discussion to come.
- Halloween: Faith is making plans to offer a warming hut on Halloween night in the Fellowship Hall again this year, from 4:00 pm to 7:30 pm.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday January 31 after the church with a potluck.

Next Meeting: November 19, 6:00 p.m.



Call for Nominations…..

It's time to start planning for the annual meeting elections in January. Church Council terms are for two years, eligible for re-election twice, for a maximum of six years. President Karl Kranz, who has led us so capably, is term-limited.

The Nominating Committee has contacted one person and also welcomes additional nominations. Continuing on Church Council: Greg Harris, Rosalyn Francis (both elected 2022, re-elected 2024 and 2026); Amy Carlson and Heidi Krumland (both elected 2024, re-elected 2026); Greg Steeber (elected 2025, eligible for re-election 2027), Ellen Farley (elected 2026), Pete Spiegel, advisory, representing non-members.

--John Schramm, Leesa Broker, Barbara Rossing



Contribution update:

Actual contributions ending September 2026	$8,958.37
Actual Year-to-date contributions	$104,257.37
Budget to September 30	$ 123,750.00

Immigration/Race Justice Group (I/RJG) *as submitted by Alex Schmidt, October meeting*

Present: Six members were present

Mutual support: *After two months, those who were able to attend were able to catch up with each other's lives and stories. We Tequila toasted a birthday and another member's wedding and honeymoon!*

Administration/Education:

- **a.** Our current budget account was reviewed. There still remains an outstanding rent check for $500.
- **b.** **NWIRP Business Webinar** was reviewed. Comments on their presentation were very favorable. Not sure how many registered. This and other resources are available on NWIRP's website: https://nwirp.org/news-events/events/webinars/ and also available on their video page https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/1235958472). Six of our "choir" participated in the Watch Party. Left over tamales were sold.
- **c.** The **Building Bridges** anti-racism workshop, sponsored by **Cascade United Universalist Fellowship,** is tentatively rescheduled for Martin Luther King Jr. weekend in mid-January.
- **d.** The I/RJG has reserved an information table for the **City's Community Engagement nigh**t, November 17th, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m Several have volunteered to occupy our table. Two members will provide the group with some "engaging" questions (by October 31st)to be handed out to stimulate interest. Another has graciously volunteered to enhance them with graphic design.
- **e.** The Business Webinar suggested that each organization develop a **"security plan"** for their establishment. Might FLC consider this possibility.
- **f.** No response yet to the NWIntermountain Synod of which FLC is part, on our application for a micro-grant of $2,000.

1. **Direct Support:**
   - **a.** One of our members spoke of a single mom and two young children who needed transportation to Seattle this week for an Immigration Court hearing. No volunteers were found. We extended to the family $350 for securing a ride.
   - **b.** **English Classes** have begun last Tuesday at the PD library Oct. 6th, 6:p.m. and **Citizenship Classes** have also started on Thursday, Oct 15, 4:30 p.m.-6:00 with one student. A student notebook and homework sheet were passed at our gathering for folks to be amazed at the difficulty.
2. **Advocacy:**
   - a. A donation check of $400 will be sent to the **NWIRP** office for their work on the Business Webinar.
   - b. It was suggested that next year we increase our donation to WAISN (WAImmigration Solidarity Network).
   - c. Our members were encouraged to also donate to reputable immigration advocacy agencies, such a **Global Refuge** (national) and **Faith Action Network** (statewide).
   - d. The group did a "Signal App" test and briefly rehearsed the responsibilities of a Rapid Response Team action using the **"Guidelines for Bystandeers and Observers."**

NEXT MEETINGS: Nov. 16th and Dec. 14th, 6:00 p.m. Contact Alex for details: 509.548.7012.

From Earth Stewardship Committee…..

Shaped by Fire

by Liam Elias



Gathering around a campfire is one of my favorite things to do. There's something about watching the flames that is so captivating, even magical. This fire fascination most of us feel is likely due to our species' long relationship with it. Fire provides so many comforts and safety, yet it can also be so painful and destructive. Our human ancestors have been engaging with fire for two million years and we have evolved significantly because of it. It all started when a lightning strike would ignite somewhere. Our ancestors took the burning sticks back to their caves for heat, light, cooking and protection.

Later we started burning grasslands, prairies and meadows after noticing the gifts that followed in the flames' wake. Here in the Pacific Northwest, lower intensity fires stimulated edible, utilitarian and medicinal plants like camas, fireweed and stinging nettles and kept fuel levels from building up too high which prevented the hotter wildfires. The disturbances stimulated new tender green shoots to emerge, producing food for elk and deer. This regular periodic burning discouraged the encroachment of trees and larger shrubs that threatened to shade out the fields of wild berry patches.

When they first saw indigenous people starting and maintaining these fires, European settlers and loggers were horrified. In 1850, the US government set laws to prevent the forests from burning. The Smokey the Bear campaign established the public view of fire as “bad” and spread fear around the idea of letting fires burn in the woods. Over the last few generations, our perspective of a healthy forest has morphed into a scene of a shady, densely wooded place.

By outlawing fire, settlers could preserve the valuable timber for future harvesting, which has led to forests growing overcrowded leaving just the dominant species. When healthy disturbances like fire are taken away, the diversity of plants declines which causes declines in species specific insects, birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles too.

But the impacts of fire suppression go beyond the neglect and impacts to ecosystems. Strategic laws were enacted to effectively stop indigenous cultural burning. For many native groups, fire was seen as a tool for ecosystem management, food production and a connection to the land. Over time, these colonial laws created food insecurity which effectively broke down indigenous social and family structures.

In the 1960’s after 100 years of fire suppression, this idea began to be questioned and laws started to shift back. Wildfire intensity and frequency had increased causing the Western scientific community to begin to recognize the ecological impacts and public safety threats.

Educating the public about good fire is taking longer of course but we are making good progress. Washington has three active prescribed burn associations (PBA) being followed by three more groups forming.



I am old enough to remember the warm pleasant summers in Washington, going swimming in the lake, backyard barbecues and family bike rides for ice cream. The air was clean and clear and I didn't think this would ever be taken away. Washington has been free of major wildfires until recently. Now every summer we anticipate the "smoke season" that might come at any time depending how the winds blow. We hunker down inside our air conditioned homes and rush out to buy air purifiers and masks.

Camp CAMREC is fortunate enough to be partners with the Cascadia PBA, the Department of Natural Resources, Forest Service, and Cascadia Conservation District who all provide the structure and support for landowners like us to conduct safe burns.

During the second week of October we burned another 10 acres on the North and Eastern sides of camp for the primary purpose of creating more defensible space, renewing habitat, education and cycling important nutrients. By burning up the excess fuels on the ground, we can slow down a hot wildfire that might come our way in the future.

When you visit, you can walk through these places to see land that was burned this year, one and two years ago and land that was just mowed or thinned. Then you can compare these with areas nearby that are thick with trees and dense undergrowth and imagine how a wildfire might behave in each place.

What we must realize and keep teaching one another is that we need regular, gentle fires in our lands. The multitude of gifts that fire provides us in ecosystem services is impossible to measure. Let's celebrate life together and the fire that makes it possible.





Thank you Oktoberfest Ambassadors!

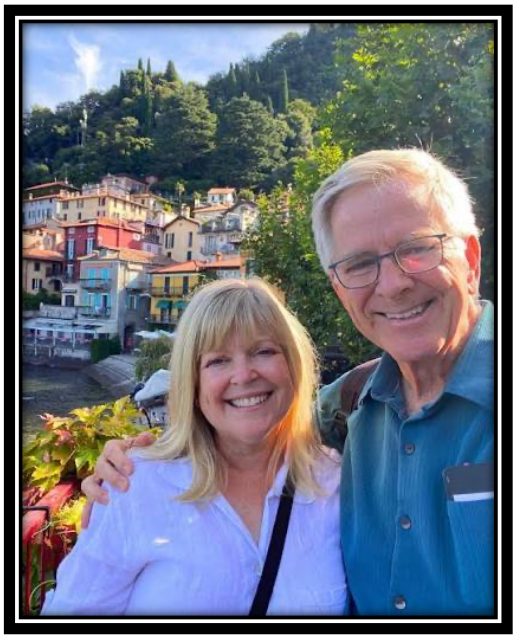
Eric & Heidi Krumland, Carl & Dawn Kranz, Debbie & Carl Florea, Jeff & Natalie Musser, Joan & Jim McCord, Paula & Mike Martin, Barbara Rossing, Mary & Greg Steeber



Faith also received $2,200 from the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce for volunteering in the summer. This entire amount was sent to the Tumaini Lutheran Seminary in Malinyi, Tanzania to help fund a solar electric cooking system which will eliminate 100% of the harmful emissions produced by the existing wood-burning kitchen. Learn more about this project at:

https://nwimsynod.org/blog/2026419/i94mp91mowo0jy9brxe723k3gqw7hv





Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee and travel guru Rick Steves presented "The Traveler and the Bishop" at Pacific Lutheran University in October. They gave a traveler's take on the fragility of our democracy and a Lutheran bishop's take on Christian nationalism. Here is a link to their presentation: https://youtu.be/dSJ0h-HQTYw



Faith Lutheran Church
LEAVENWORTH, WASHINGTON

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 25 for the December issue.