

The Follower

"Come, follow me." Matthew 4:19



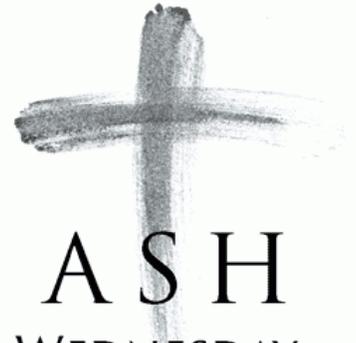
A monthly newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church

7075 Pacific Ave SE Lacey, Wa 98503

Phone: 360-491-3552 E-mail: churchoffice@faithcampus.org Web: faithlutheranlacey.org



See p. 6



ASH
WEDNESDAY
SERVICES

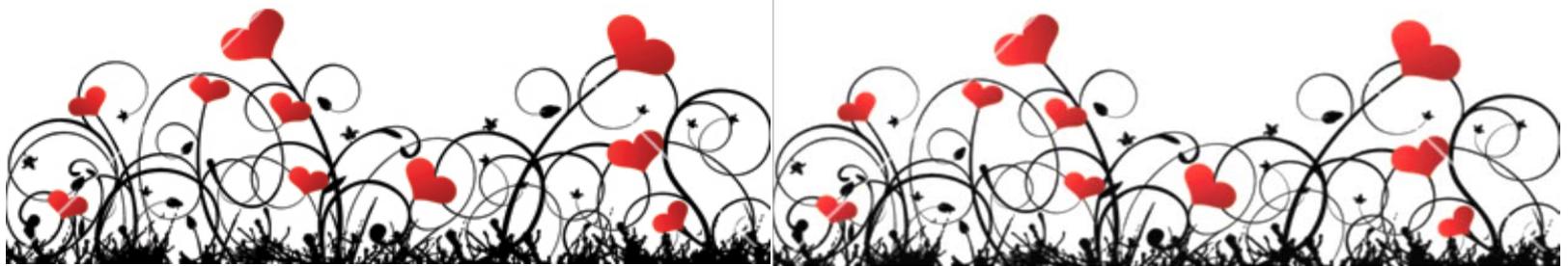
February 26, 7 pm
February 27, 10 am



Saturday, February 1
5 - 7:30 PM see p. 6



Sunday, February 23
between services,
starting at 9:50 am





Pastor's Letter

February 2020

Dear People of Faith,

The season of Lent is approaching once again. It begins with a special Ash Wednesday Service at 7pm on February 26 this month. Lent is that time in the Church Year we are disciplined to deplore our sin in repentance and to look in faith to Christ Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

The Lord calls His people to return. *"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel"* (Mark 1:15). These words of Jesus, at the start of His public ministry, come upon His return to Galilee after forty days of fasting and His temptation in the desert. We will also hear during this upcoming Lent that we are made of dust and to dust we will return (Genesis 3:19). These godly and loving reminders tell us that He made us, it is His work, we are His, and He wants us to be with Him. Our Lord's words cause us to turn, repent, to return.

Some of us may be feeling as if we are wandering in the wilderness of employment, finances, family matters, health, or other serious concerns at this time. I am with you, and we may not always care for the serious side of Lent. The forty days of Lent, however, do not leave us alone on the ash heap. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, we are led to a triumphant Easter Day and our own Baptism into Christ. Lent is a serious matter. It's about death and life, sin and forgiveness, grace and mercy, through the Word made flesh. *"With His stripes we are healed"* (Isaiah 53:5).

Each Sunday in Lent is a celebration. Sunday Worship at Faith echoes Christ's victory over death. Our heavenly Father can truly do amazing things with dust.

Along with the Elders, I encourage you to be faithful in worship both on Sundays and also as we gather together for the midweek Lenten services on Wednesdays. If you have not been to Faith in a while, please return as our Lord calls. It is wonderful to see many members return weekly to the celebration of Christ's gifts. Just praying the same prayer together makes it worth it. This year also consider returning for Wednesday Lenten Services and/or return to one or more of the weekly Bible Study/ discussion groups offered at Faith.

This year we will again use the Evening Prayer Service during midweek at 7pm starting on March 4. Invite your friends to join us. Especially for the short Evening Prayer Services on Wednesdays. More information will be coming in the Bulletin on Sunday.

The words of the following hymn are a fitting prayer for us as we enter another Lenten Season:

On my heart imprint Your image, Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation!
--"On My Heart Imprint Your Image" (LSB 422)



If I can be of help, or if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call my office or your elder. I look forward to joining you this upcoming Lenten season at Faith, departing to make known the love of Christ, and returning often to receive all the gifts Christ has to offer.

In Christ, Pr. John

Worship Service Times

Traditional Worship Service

8:30 a.m.

Contemporary Worship Service

11:15 a.m.

Education Hour;

Sunday School and Adult Bible Classes

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Holy Communion is served on the
1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of each month.

Education Hour

All classes begin at 10 am.

Adult Class #1:

The Book of James

Led by John Green

Cedar Room

Adult Class #2:

"Reading the Psalms with Luther."

Led by Timothy Quindt

Music classroom

Adult Class #3:

Lutheranism 101

Led by Pastor Luther

3rd/4th grade classroom

Sunday School

3 years – 5th grade meet in the sanctuary at 10am.

6th Grade: The 6th grade class meets from 10 - 11 am on Sunday mornings in the 5th and 6th grade classroom. We are implementing the Life Group model but at a middle school level. This is offering a more mature setting. The kids are loving it! Their teacher is Leona Carufel.

7th-8th Grade: We offer confirmation class to 7th and 8th grade students Sunday mornings from 10 – 11 am led by Craig Neumiller and Sarah Elliott in the Youth room. We use a 2-year program that offers a study of both the Bible and the Catechism in a fun way. 11 am in the Youth room. We use a 2-year program that offers a study of both the Bible and the Catechism in a fun way. Point of contact is Erin Holmquist at erinhq@comcast.net.

Ushers & Greeters



Feb. 2

Usher

Early: Jim & Terri Gilbert

Late: Jason F. & Philip J.

Greeter

Ted & Shirley

Darlys Leicht

Feb. 9

Usher

Early: Troy S. & Robert B.

Late: Tim & Sarah Elliott

Greeter

Pam de Moss

Linda Albro

Feb. 16

Usher

Early: Jim & Terri Gilbert

Late: Darren S. & Monty T.

Greeter

Paula Olson

Pat Clark

Feb. 23

Usher

Early: Robert B. & Troy S.

Late: Glenn & Veronika D.

Greeter

Michelle K.

Darlys Leicht

Please contact Becky in the church office if you would like to be an usher or greeter. 360-491-3552 or churchoffice@faithcampus.org.

Lutheran Hour Ministries

Listen to the Word Sunday mornings at 7:00 am on 89.7 KAWZ, Olympia radio.

Fellowship

We meet the 1st Saturday of every month

Next meeting: Feb. 1, 10 am

In the church kitchen

As always, our dedicated members and supporters continue serving each Sunday. If you are interested in joining the team, have questions about our mission and areas of service or would like to donate goodies to serve Sunday mornings between worship services please contact Kay Williams, Fellowship chair at (253) 921-3434.

3Ms

Join the 3Ms (More Mature Members) every **Thursday at 10 am** in the Cedar Room as they fellowship and study the Word of God.

Please contact Jim Nordness at fab50s@comcast.net or 360-923-0289

Pinochle



The Pinochle group meets every third Thursday of the month following 3M's at 11:30 am. Join us on Thursday, Feb. 20 for potluck lunch and cards!

Contact Becky Kramer at 714-488-8501 or rebeccakramer@sbcglobal.net.

Men of Faith

The Men of Faith meet regularly in the Faith Community Center for breakfast, a short Bible study and chores on the second Saturday of each month. The next meeting is Jan. 11 at **8:00 am**. Men of all ages are welcome and encouraged!

Contact Steve Demel at demelfam@aol.com or 360-491-4936.

Threads of Faith

Our next meeting is on Saturday, Feb. 15, 9 – 11:30 am. You are welcome to come help or just stop by to say “hello”!

Contact Clodene Bergt at 360- 491-3078.

Sunday Morning Sign-ups

It is so great to celebrate how God is working through different members of God's kingdom here on earth. If you want to share a time when you saw God in Action (life-changing moments, mission trips, conversations, etc.) and encourage support for one another through a **mission moment**, please sign up on the link below or talk to Becky in the church office, churchoffice@faithcampus.org or 360-491-3552.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A4BA8AA23A2FC1-mission>



LENTEN CALENDAR

Beginning Wednesday Feb. 26, **ASH WEDNESDAY**, we will have midweek services on Wednesday evenings 7:00 pm and Thursday mornings 10 am. The evening services (excluding Ash Wednesday) will be preceded with a simple Soup Supper, 6:00 – 7:00 pm.

Soup Suppers

You are invited to join us Wednesdays, March 4 – April 1 for a soup supper followed by a brief Lenten meditation.

We encourage anyone with a favorite recipe to make up a batch to share. A sign up board has been placed in the fellowship hall. Please have the soup delivered to the church kitchen before 6 pm.

We are in need of people to serve, please connect with Becky in the church office.



NEW Women's Bible Study

A new weekly Bible Study will be starting on Monday, February 3 at 10:00 am. *Women of Faith* will first meet to organize and decide on a Bible Study to start with. We can fashion ourselves after the Men of Faith and do some work projects around the church as needed following the study for all those who can stay and do so.

Our first gathering will be in the Cedar Room in the Community Center. If you have any questions, please contact Arla Mae Luther at 541-520-9918 or Gaye Todd at 360-918-4948. No sign up needed, just show up on February 3.



FLY (Faith Lutheran Youth)

Mark your calendar; a parent meeting is scheduled for January 5 at 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall to talk about the future of youth group.



February Youth Activities

2 – NO MEETING – Super bowl Sunday

9 – Valentine’s Day Party

16 - NO MEETING

23 – Real Life Clue

Middle School Gathering

If you are a middle school student in grades six – nine, mark your calendar & don't miss out!

March 7 - 8, 2020

Lake Retreat Center, Ravensdale, WA

Early Bird registration, \$40, must be received by Sunday, February 9. Late registration, \$60, must be received before Sunday, March 1.

This year’s theme is “#sorrynotsorry”.

The weekend is filled with Bible study, worship, games, good food, and new friends!

Contact Liz Fassnacht at girlofdisney@aol.com for info or if you are interested in driving or being a chaperone (your cost is paid).

Registration info is available now in the church office.



TRINITY LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP

Serving Jesus, Making Disciples, Witnessing to the World

Youth Retreat 2020 – 2020 Vision

Mar 27 at 7 PM – Mar 29 at 12 PM

Register Before February 29th for \$20 off

The TLBC Youth Conference is a way to be a witness for Christ and an opportunity to equip youth to be disciples of Jesus.

This two-night event is for high school youth and college-aged youth under 21 to gather with other young Brothers and Sisters in Christ and learn about Christ, grow in faith, and have a blast doing it!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1798533703616151/>

Fix Our Eyes

TheONE

High School District Youth Gathering

July 8 – 12

NW Nazarene University,
Nampa, ID

High school youth from all over our NW District will be gathering together for four amazing days of service opportunities throughout the Boise area. Each evening youth will return to NNU’s campus for inspiring worship and time to process and share their stories from the day. As we Fix Our Eyes on Jesus, we will be reminded that we are called together to be the body of Christ, on His mission in the world.

Pricing:

Regular Registration (after January 31, 2020): \$375

Registration Fees Include:

- Housing: Participants will be housed in dorms at Northwest Nazarene University.
- Meals: All meals for our time together at theONE Gathering will be included.
- Program: All program costs are included.
- Service Projects: The registration fee also covers all service projects and supplies.

Timeline:

A \$50 deposit is due at registration for each participant. After January 31, deposits cannot be returned. Payment in full is due by May 15, 2020. \$100 will be retained for any cancellations made after May 15, and full payments will be retained for cancellations made after June 15. The last day for substitutions is June 15.

Payment Info:

No payments can be accepted on-site at theONE Gathering. All payments must be made online or by check (postmarked by May 15).

Cancellations/Substitutions WILL NOT be accepted on-site at theONE Gathering.

Please contact Becky Kellnhofer in the church office to request your registration packet now.

churchoffice@faithcampus.org



Birthdays and Anniversaries

February Birthdays

Debbie Demel	Feb. 1
Jordan Thiesse	Feb. 2
Dick Wetzel	Feb. 2
Glenn Dunnam	Feb. 3
Zoe Green	Feb. 4
Tim Elliott	Feb. 6
Sandra Hresil	Feb. 6
Kylee Wickel	Feb. 6
Kim Lensegrav	Feb. 8
Shelbie Davis	Feb.10
Sarah Elliott	Feb. 13
Gary Fassnacht	Feb. 14
Gene Hansen	Feb. 15
Matt Koehler	Feb. 15
Diane Murray	Feb. 15
Erv Brueckner	Feb. 19
Mason Zander	Feb. 19
Linda Albro	Feb. 21
Natalie Fassnacht	Feb. 21
Hanna Gabel	Feb. 22
Donald Lensegrav	Feb. 22
Jenn Bache	Feb. 23
Evelyn Simpson	Feb. 23
Naomi Kinslow	Feb. 25
Clarence Schultz	Feb. 25
Sandra Miller	Feb. 26
Sharon Avery	Feb. 29



February Anniversaries

Jim & Terri Gilbert	Feb. 4
Randy & Barbara Eriksen	Feb. 9
Tim & Sarah Elliott	Feb. 10
Glenn & Veronika Dunnam	Feb. 14
Jason & Bianca Finley	Feb. 20

Don't see your name or birthday/anniversary up here? Contact the church office 360-491-3552.



Rummage Sale Donations

It's time to start clearing out the attic, garage and closets. We officially begin taking donations for our semi-annual Rummage Sale on **Monday, Feb. 24 – Friday, March 27** in the Men's Locker Room.

*ACCEPTABLE DONATIONS INCLUDE

Clothing (clean & folded), toys (sets must be packaged together), household goods, small appliances, books, puzzles, movies, video games & systems, home/holiday décor, pet supplies, arts & crafts, baby gear, sports equipment and garden, etc.

All donations must be clean and in working order.

*Items we will NOT accept include: Furniture (donate to Furniture Bank of Thurston Cty 2121 Log Cabin Rd Se Olympia), printers, VCRs, scratched Teflon cookware, disposable kitchen containers, Tupperware lids without containers & vice versa, hardwired lighting fixtures, construction materials, children's car/booster seats, cribs or changing tables, dirty or broken items. We have nowhere to donate them. Please keep in mind that if you wouldn't buy it from a rummage sale, please do not donate it!

We are once again working with Value Village and their FUNDrive program - they pay us to donate! We are paid \$.25/lb. for textiles; in other words, clothing, accessories, sheets, pillows, blankets, towels, drapery, etc. Household goods will most likely be donated to City Gates Ministries and other non-profit organizations we have relationships with throughout Thurston county!

All proceeds benefit Faith's Youth Ministry program.

Rummage Sale Help

The Semi-Annual Rummage Sale has become a huge success and with that a huge production to put on. We are now in need of more hands to keep the success rolling, specifically: incoming item organization, traffic sign placement, set-up/display. As a bonus, helpers get exclusive early shopping rights.

We will accept donations Monday, February 24 – Friday, March 27.

Please contact Becky Kellnhofer to become part of the team! Call or text **254-415-8320** or churchoffice@faithcampus.org.

Principal Call Update

Hello Faith Families,

On behalf of the Principal Call Committee, we wanted to share with you the latest work of the committee. In December, the FLS teachers and lead staff from the church, childcare, community center, and school were surveyed on which key skills and attributes are most important for a Christian school principal to possess. The Call Committee then met to discuss and collate their great input.

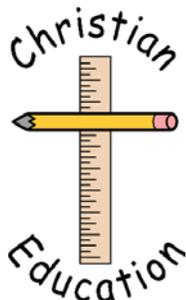
We had to pare everything down to our top 3 skills and 3 attributes to send off to Jim Scriven at the Northwest District Office of the LCMS, which happened just before Christmas break. In early January, Jim sent the names of several qualified candidates back to the committee for review. Mr. Neumiller, our current interim principal, is also included for consideration among this group of names.

Over the next couple of weeks, the Call Committee will review a lengthy biographical document for each of the candidates received from the district office and will then narrow down the list to invite a handful (no set number) to interview. We will continue to keep you updated on the process as we move along, and we humbly ask for your prayers for wisdom and guidance during this Call process.

Blessings,

FLS Principal Call Committee

- Mark Dougherty, School Board Chair*
- Angela Spence, School Board Member*
- Bianca Finley, School Board Member*
- Janet Howald, School Board Member*
- Pastor John Luther, Campus Pastor*
- Matt Koehler, Faith Lutheran Church
Congregational President*
- Sarah Elliott, Faith Lutheran School
Teacher*



L.E.S.T.

LEST (Lutheran Elementary School Tournament) for our 5th – 8th grade students will be held on Feb. 13 -15 at Concordia University in Portland. The competitions include:

- | | | |
|---------|----------|-----------------|
| Chess | Math | Knowledge Bowl |
| Science | Spelling | Robotics |
| Piano | Vocals | Boys Basketball |
| Drama | Swimming | |

Please pray for safe travels as our students' head down to Portland. Find more info at <https://www.cu-portland.edu/admission/lutheran-elementary-school-tournament>

Family Fun Night

February 1, 2020 5:00—7:30 pm

Family Fun Night is fast approaching! This is a fun, family night of BINGO, prizes, and food.

Cost: \$5 per person, or
\$25 max for immediate family
2 and under are free

No advance purchase is necessary. Cash or check is accepted at the door. Our middle schoolers are serving the food. *If you feel led*, you can help them earn their way to L.E.S.T. in February by supporting them with a cash tip. Invite your friends, we can't wait to see you and your family there!

Re-enrollment Time

Re-enrollment at FLS is right around the corner. Let's see if we can reach our goal of 200 students for this next school year. Members of Faith Lutheran Church and current students will be able to enroll from February 19 - 25.

Open enrollment, for families new to the school will begin on February 26. Enrollment on both February 19 and 26 will begin at 7:30 a.m. Mark your calendars now. You don't want to miss out.



Shoe Drive Fundraiser

Get ready, get set, start collecting shoes!! On **February 17, 2020**, we are starting a shoe drive of new or gently-worn used shoes. This shoe drive serves a dual purpose—we raise money for our school and the shoes we collect are shipped to third world countries. Start asking friends, family, neighbors, people from your church, and anyone else you can think of to save their shoes!

Shoes for all ages and genders and of all sizes and types (flip flops, sandals, tennis shoes, dress shoes, winter boots, etc.) are wanted. **Shoe pairs must be bound together by tying shoelaces together, rubber bands or zip ties.**

For more information, go to: **Funds2Orgs.com**

Funds2Orgs accepts all gently worn, however, there are some restrictions, which are as follows:

- Single Shoes or mismatched pairs of shoes
- Ice Skates
- Rollerblades / Roller Skates
- Wet / moldy shoes
- Shoes with holes or tears
- No thrift store shoes are accepted.

Donation drop off times: Thurs & Fri, 8:15 – 8:45am and 3:00 – 3:30pm in the Whitney Building (next to the middle school building), or arrangements can be made with staff by calling 360-491-1733 or 360-491-3552.



What is Scrip?

GIFT CARDS! Stick to your budget goals and earn money for Faith when you purchase SCRIP cards or use the MyScripWallet app on your phone!

See Arla Mae in the Fellowship Hall between services on Sundays - in the school office during regular school hours or see Jenn in the church office. If we don't have what you need, we can easily place an order for you!



Faith Lutheran Auction May 16, 2020

Have you put the date of May 16, 2020 on your calendar for this year's auction? Along with our usual silent and live auction, we are very excited about some of the new things we will be doing this year! We are going to have a Penny Social, Wine Toss, game of Heads or Tails, and a few more things you will have to experience in person.

What is a Penny Social? It is a raffle-style auction where guests buy special tickets that they use to bid on select items and prizes. Each ticket equals one bid. A winning ticket is drawn at random, and the guest who placed that ticket wins the item.

A new and exciting item we will have in the live auction this year is a set of Disney Park Hopper tickets.

**Auction tickets go on Sale February 17, 2020.
\$30 cash or check, \$35 debit, credit or online
May 1 prices increase to \$45/\$50.**

This is the biggest fundraiser for our campus, and we need your help to make it successful. Think of friends, clients, business associates, etc. you could invite that are passionate about supporting Christian education.

Stay tuned to our Faith Lutheran Auction Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mardigras2020 for updates, new donations and information.

Purchase an item from our Amazon Wish List **Faith Lutheran (Lacey) 2020 Auction.**

Tacoma Rescue Mission

During February, FLS chapel offerings will benefit the Tacoma Rescue Mission. This Christian organization serves the homeless and hurting in the greater Tacoma area. You are invited to help us collect donations of the following desperately needed items, (gently used is okay):

Travel-size hygiene items
Pants (incl. jeans,
Socks
Study Bibles
New toys
NEW pillows

Tacoma Rescue Mission
P.O. Box 1912
Tacoma, WA 98401-1912
253.383.4493
www.trm.org

New Floors & Other Blessings

By Matt Koehler

The new flooring in the fellowship hall looks great, don't you think! It really gives a fresh look to a very old building. Thank you to all who helped prep the rooms by moving furniture and other chores! There was consensus from the congregational survey that the church building needed some "freshening up", and this is just the first step. In the future, we hope to improve the restrooms, entryways, and other features. Please continue your generous giving so those can become reality, and thank you for all you have given so far!

Speaking of giving, our roof fund is doing very well, thank you! At this rate, we will be able to complete the roof project this year, well before our initial projections.

God isn't just blessing Faith with your monetary gifts, we are seeing some great things with people's time and talents as well. A number of people stepped up to fill several important board and leadership positions, and I am so thankful for all of you. Truly, God answered my prayers right there in the voter's meeting that day when all those people volunteered in November. In addition, others are stepping up to take on smaller jobs from the "giving tree" in the fellowship hall. If you haven't seen that, take a look and see if there is something you might be able to lend your talents to.

Right above the giving tree are the posters featuring different church members, another new feature helping us to get to know each other! Take a few minutes each month to see the new ones and learn about each other's history, hobbies, and families. It's really interesting to know the stories behind the people!

Our life groups continue to flourish as well! One of the life groups with young families is growing so much they are looking to divide into smaller groups. What a fantastic blessing the Lord is providing to them and to Faith! If you are interested in joining a life group, contact the church office.

These are just a few examples of how God is blessing our ministry here at Faith. I'm so thankful for all of you, and pray that many more of you will be moved to find ways to serve so we can help even more people here and around our community.

Childcare Director Search

Mark Dougherty, School Board Chair

In the last newsletter, Sharon Avery announced that she would be moving on to new career adventures. Her last day as childcare director was January 31. Sharon worked loyally for Faith Lutheran for over 20 years and her shoes will be difficult to fill.

The School Board is actively recruiting for a new childcare director. We updated the job description and posted it on various job sites, including Craigslist and Indeed. The job description now includes elevated education requirements recently passed by the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

We have also given careful thought to the traits and abilities we are looking for in a director and have crafted interview questions that will help us determine whether candidates are a good fit for Faith Lutheran. In addition, we recently met with childcare staff to update them on the hiring plans and process. By the time you read this article, interviews should be scheduled. Childcare and school representatives will join the Board on the interview panel. How soon a new director begins will depend on how quickly a candidate rises to the top of the pool and how soon that person is able to begin. In the meantime, Tammy Melofsky, the center's assistant director, will act as the supervisor in charge of the center. Many of you know Tammy, since she has a long history with the program. We are thankful that Tammy is willing to fill in for a short time.

We have many other decisions to make in the coming months as we select a permanent school principal, set tuition rates, and make difficult budgeting decisions that account for the rising minimum wage. If you get a chance, please thank Board members Angela Spence, Bianca Finley, and Janet Howald for the many extra hours they are currently gifting to the school and childcare.

Above all, please join us in praying that our hiring decisions will reflect God's plan. We know that we cannot make decisions based on fear or panic; we must abide in Him to perceive His will.



Some Saturdays of *Hope*

This outreach activity, inspired by Philippians 2:12-16 and Colossians 4:5-6, is borne out of the August 31, 2019 Community Festival.

When: 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month,
10:30 – 11:30 am

Who: Praying hearts, hearts chattering about God to children, and willing hearts equipped with His Word.

Contact: Anne Spurgeon at 360-481-7557 or genoneforever@gmail.com

“But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing.” Psalm 34:10a

Life Groups of Faith

MONDAY –

7 pm - Monday night Life Group meets from 7:00-8:30 p.m. weekly in the Fellowship Hall at church. New members are always welcome. Currently there are 8 participants and more are welcome. We begin with celebrations, sharing our awareness of God’s grace to us the past week, and end with prayer. Our Bible focus for discussion is the previous day’s sermon and text.

WEDNESDAY –

10:00 am – 12:00 pm adult Life Group, led by SuAnn Denning at Anne Spurgeon’s home, meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. We currently have 4-5 participants, and more are welcome. Call SuAnn for a ride or directions at 360-790-8982.

Amazon Wish List

Looking for an easy way to donate to VBS, Sunday School, Youth Group and Rummage Sale ministries here at Faith? A wish list has been created on Amazon for your convenience! Items listed include: Big Comfy Beanbag Chair, Tribix Wireless Speaker, Fire TV Stick, USB Charger and various other supplies. Monetary and gift card donations are welcome as well.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2LUNQ5W4749RZ/ref=cm_nav_hz

Prayers of Faith

By Matt Koehler

Wednesday nights are full of prayers at Faith! We open the sanctuary from 6 - 7 pm every Wednesday night and welcome Faith members, school families, or even the public to come and pray for any needs that God has placed on your heart. We have lists with prayer requests, and you are welcome to call or email the church office if you have a prayer request you would like someone to pray for. Of course, you can bring your own list as well!

If you can’t make it to church on Wednesday nights, we invite you to join in and pray from home or wherever you are.

This is very simply an opportunity to come and pray. You can pray individually, pray together, pray silently, pray out loud, it doesn’t matter. God wants to hear our prayers, so let’s fill up his “inbox”!

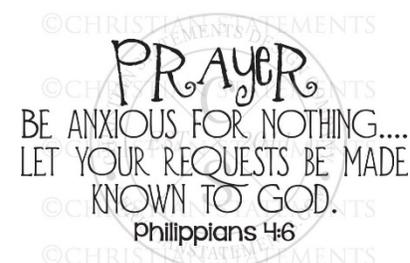


Care Warriors

Do you have some time you would be willing to share? There are several members of our congregation who are home or bed bound, have cancer or other health issues. In an effort to keep them connected and feeling they are still a part of Faith’s community, we are seeking your help.

Here are some ideas: read the bible, visit, go for a walk, cook a meal, bring fresh flowers, rent material from the library, send a card, bring a newspaper, bring Faith’s newsletter.

You can remain anonymous. Please connect with the church office. They have a list of friends that would love your company. 360-491-3552 or churchoffice@faithcampus.org





VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES

EMPOWERING FAMILIES TO RAISE CHILDREN WHO CARE AND CONTRIBUTE

Family & Youth Resource Center

Volunteering at the North Thurston Public School Family & Youth Resource Center – <https://www.nthurston.k12.wa.us/fyrccenter>

Thank you for your interest in volunteering – we are excited to work with you!

1. Fill out a volunteer application online at <http://www.nthurston.k12.wa.us/volunteer>
2. Choose a volunteer opportunity that works best for you!
3. Sign a paper FYRC confidentiality agreement on your first day of volunteering. **Questions? Contact Merry Sam at msam@nthurston.k12.wa.us or (360) 412-4451**

Current FYR Center Volunteer Opportunities

Donation Processing: Accept and sort donations from the community.

Mondays 8:30-11:30 am & 12:30-3:00 pm

Kids Closet Greeter: Welcome and orient families who come to use the Kids Closet.

Tuesdays 9-11 am & Thursdays 1-3 pm

School Lost & Found Processing: Launder clothing donated from school’s lost & found. Pickup and return items to the FYRC. *On-Call.*

Restocking Schools: Deliver supplies (clothes, toiletries, etc.) from the FYRC to schools. *On-Call.*

Office Tasks: Help with miscellaneous office tasks in support of FYRC staff. *On-Call.*

TUTORING: We have a great need for tutors to support struggling students, elementary through high school. Let us know your preferences for schedule, grade, subject, or school. *Typically Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday after school, once per week.*

Please contact Merry Sam with your interest and availability to sign up to volunteer!

Thrivent Choice Dollars

By Matt Koehler

The new year brings the opportunity to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars! If you have a Thrivent account, you may have Choice Dollars available to direct. This is money Thrivent makes available for account holders to give to charitable causes, and is not money they can collect for their own use. Generosity is important to Thrivent and its members. Thrivent Choice® provides a platform for members to have a financial impact on the causes and nonprofits they care about. More than 40,000 churches and nonprofits are enrolled in the program, and it keeps growing! If members don’t choose to direct their dollars, Thrivent chooses a national charity for their Choice Dollars to go to, so we are hoping our members make the choice to direct their Choice Dollars to Faith.

Last year, congregation members directed \$26,000 to Faith Lutheran, what a wonderful blessing! We were able to use a significant portion of that to pay for the new flooring that was installed in the Fellowship Hall at the end of December. This was over and above regular giving by these members, and we are so grateful for their thoughtful generosity!

So if you are a Thrivent member, visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to see if you have Choice Dollars to direct. Or, you can do it by phone at 800-847-4836. When prompted, say “**Thrivent Choice**” and follow directions from there.



Thrivent Members:
MAKE a DIFFERENCE
by directing your
Thrivent Choice Dollars!



A Positive, Faith-Filled Outlook

It happens so easily, especially in the company of the wrong people. Before you know it, you're criticizing and complaining, and the atmosphere becomes negative. That's because words are like clouds or sunshine; they create a climate. You say, 'But I only say these things because I'm so worried.' Then read this: *'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds'* (vv. 6-7).

You rise above anxiety by giving thanks, not by complaining. Never let your level of thanksgiving be determined by your situation, because God is greater than any situation you face. So how can you overcome your inclination to be negative, and instead develop a positive, faith-filled outlook?

1) **Decide to.** Abraham Lincoln told the truth when he said, *'Most folks are as happy as they make up their mind to be.'* Refuse to spend another moment criticizing and complaining.

2) **Start now.** Change doesn't come easily, but unless you make a start it won't come at all. Try to be more aware of what you say. Catch yourself in the act! When your first few sentences are negative, self-correct and steer the conversation back towards what's positive. Resolve that from now on if you can't say something helpful, you'll refrain from saying anything at all.

3) **Look for what's good.** *'Whatever is true...noble...right...pure...lovely...admirable...think about such things'* (Philippians 4:8). Make this your prayer: *'Lord, give me a positive, faith-filled outlook.'*

Heavenly Father, help me to be positive and to catch myself when I say something negative. Help me think of positive things!

In Jesus' Name, Amen



Food Bank Donations

Have you notice the food bank bin is no longer "where it should be"? We have changed things around for a more attractive appeal! You may now place your donations inside the cabinet located in the hallway near the Men's bathroom. Thank you to the Flahertys for donating the cabinets and coordinating organization and delivery!

If you would like to help, please contact Becky Flaherty at beckyflaherty88@yahoo.com or 360-493-0079.

Food Bank

Thank you to everyone who continues to donate to the Thurston County Food Bank! It's easy! Just drop unopened items off in the cabinet located in the Fellowship Hall.

Some donation ideas:

- Canned beans
- Cereal
- Macaroni and cheese
- Peanut Butter
- Canned soup



High protein canned food (chicken, beans, chili), pasta, soup, canned fruit and vegetables, dry goods (oats, beans, rice) and boxed baby cereal, food/ formula.

Medical Equipment Repair

Free medical equipment repair (non-electric) is being offered Monday – Friday by appointment only. If you need help with your walker, wheelchair, cane, crutches, etc. call the church office at 360-491-3552 to be connected with the repair technician.



Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

From the Board of Social Ministry

Connie Dougherty, Board Chair

Hello! My name is Connie Dougherty and I was just elected chair of the Board of Social Ministry. I have held several FL roles in the past, including congregation president, chair of Christian Ed and chair of Fellowship, but this role is completely new for me. I look forward to figuring it out! I also have a full-time day job at a local non-profit called the Child Care Action Council. I teach classes for people who work in childcare facilities and lead a team of people who provide services to improve the quality of licensed childcare in six counties. I'm married to Mark and we have two grown children, Emma (in Portland) and Adam (in Virginia.)

Did you know that our church has a constitution and bylaws that spell out the duties of church leadership positions? Thank goodness we do, because the job description is what will get me started in this new endeavor. In a nutshell, the **Board of Social Ministry and Evangelism** takes the lead in outreach to the community-at-large and to those who already participate in our church, school, or childcare.

There are *many* duties outlined in the bylaws, but two that excite me are:

1. To “encourage and train congregation members to informally and spontaneously witness and practice Christ to one another and the unsaved.” The words I’ve underlined resonant with me, because I don’t see evangelism as someone with a microphone on a stage. I think it begins in “The Smalls” – in relationships and conversations.
2. To “help new members become actively involved in the spiritual and service activities of the congregation.” This speaks to me because I believe all people have gifts to give in service to God, even if it’s just one hour given to one person. Joy comes with it.

In closing, I’ll say that I have been concerned for years about the “one person boards” we often see in churches. A board is meant to be more than just the chairperson. I’m also turned off by volunteer

positions that burn people out with long, unnecessary meetings that take people away from their families. You are ALL in social ministry (more on *that* later), but if you are interested in joining me officially on the board, I promise that we won’t waste time and I’m happy to have informal meetings at Starbucks! Let’s do some worthwhile work together without eating up all our free time. You may reach me by email at Connie.mk@gmail.com or on our home landline at 360-943-5958.

Embrace Grace

What is Embrace Grace? Embrace Grace is an outreach that serves single women with unexpected pregnancy. We offer support to them through resources, relationships, and encouragement!

How can I serve? Fill out the online form on our website, and someone will follow up with you! Once you show interest and fill out the correct forms, you will get updates on volunteer opportunities and you can chime in when you are able!

Comfort Measures During Labor (*couples*)

February 22, 10 am – 12 pm

www.faithlutheranlacey.org/embrace-grace



BOARD MEETING

- Fellowship**, Sat, Feb. 1, 10 am
- School Board**, Thur, Feb. 6, 6:00 pm
- Elders**, Tues, Feb. 11, 6:30 pm
- Church Council**, Tues, Feb. 18, 6:00 pm
- Youth Team**, Sun, Feb. 23, 12:45 pm



My Window

WORLD VIEW. What is that? My dictionary defines it as: A comprehensive view of the world and human life. In other words, it answers questions like these: Where did the world come from? What is the purpose and meaning of life? What is right and what is wrong?

At our Bible class at Panorama, the folks wrestled with how to express their world view.

So how do you define your world view? If you are having difficulty, turn to Luther's Small Catechism and look at the explanations of the three articles of the Apostle's Creed. That is a world view.

Our culture thinks this Christian world view is nonsense and indefensible. But it is defensible! Can you defend it? I hope so. I am not implying people will agree. But they may pause to consider what you say. And that is important.

I hear about young people leaving their Christian faith when they go off to college because, though they have gone through Confirmation instruction they were not taught how to defend their faith. They fall prey to a materialistic-evolutionary world view, which by the way, is embedded in public education from elementary school on up.

Even though the first great scientists like Newton, Kepler and others were Christians, later scientists adopted Darwin's view of how everything came into being: by chance, a random process of evolution from primordial soup to what we are today. This materialistic-evolutionary world view is aggressively promoted in almost every university and college. Students are told that Science has proven the Bible false and inadequate for modern life.

But wait a minute! The Christian faith is not an irrational, desperate leap into the dark. Though our faith is God-given through the Holy Spirit it is not irrational. We need to be able to explain, for example, Christian history, how the Bible came to be put together, significant facts about geology, astronomy, and, how to spot irrational thinking. Because, in the realm of real science a lot has changed and continues to change.

First off, don't be intimidated by the statement that Science has proven the Bible false. "Science" doesn't say anything. Scientists do. And scientists who say science has the answer for everything are neither scientific nor honest. They merely promote Scientism which is a belief. Atheist scientists promote materialistic-evolution. Christian scientists, some of whom are Nobel prize winners, promote Intelligent Design, Divine creation.

Know something about geology. Geology describes the earth as many layers with a name for each layer. One of those is the Cambrian layer. The Cambrian layer is a problem for evolutionists. Why? It contains an explosion of life forms begun without any trace of evolutionary process. This suggests creation, not evolution.

Know something about astronomy. Materialistic-evolution says the universe has always existed. However, Georges Lemaitre proposed an expanding universe theory based on red light waves from stars. This was reinforced by Edwin Hubble. Today it is accepted that the universe is expanding. Thus, the expression: Big Bang. If it is expanding, it had to have a beginning. The question is: how did it all begin?

Probably the most significant factor in science today is the discovery of genes, the genome, the genetic code. Every new discovery in this field presents more mysteries. At every step scientists are faced with patterns, codes, design. In our world today, patterns, codes, design all point to an encoder, a designer. Scientists with a materialistic-evolutionary world view are unwilling to even consider "intelligent design." Surprisingly, though unwilling and still atheistic in outlook, some scientists are changing their position to "sit" among "design" proponents.

One last bit of information. If you search new scientific publications, you will find books that reject Darwin's theory of evolution. This is significant? Here are some examples: *Darwin's Doubt* by Dr. Stephen Meyer.

The Deniable Darwin by Dr. David Berlinski. *Giving Up Darwin* by Dr. David H. Gelernter. Pay attention to Dr. Stephen Meyer!

It is critical to have correct theology. And, to live in this world, we need to be equipped to explain the essential aspects of life and faith in terms non-Christians can understand. These essentials are:

Meaning. Satisfaction. Freedom. Identity. Justice. And, Hope. Today's culture holds that: the right education, a good job with commensurate salary, and a fine house are the essentials. They are not! Our job is to unpack each point in everyday language on the basis of Scripture. The Holy Spirit will enable us to do it when we make ourselves available! What better place to practice that with our children at home, in Confirmation classes, and as we gather in small groups and Bible classes.

A critical point is coming for scientists – and the world – as the results of ongoing research push them closer and closer to the necessity of acknowledging a Creator. Will we be ready with compassion and the Good News that can give comfort to those who find they have been looking for answers in the wrong places.

Finally, I apologize for the technical stuff – about which I know so little. To me it is exciting to see that science, truly done, points more and more to the creative intelligence of our Creator God.

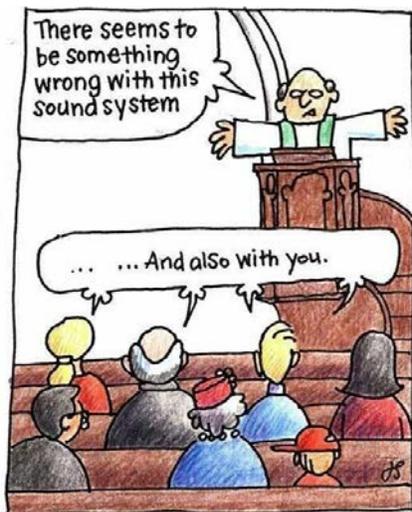
David Hinz

Amazon Wish List

Looking for an easy way to donate to various ministries here at Faith? A wish list has been created on Amazon for your convenience! Items listed include: Big Comfy Beanbag Chair, Tribix Wireless Speaker, Fire TV Stick, USB Charger and various other supplies. Monetary and gift card donations are welcome as well.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2LUNQ5W4749RZ/ref=cm_go_nav_hz

Ministries supported with the lists include VBS, Sunday School, Youth Group and Rummage Sale.



On the Lighter Side

The "Perfect" Pastor

The perfect pastor preaches exactly 10 minutes.

He condemns sin roundly but never hurts anyone's feelings.

He works from 8 AM until midnight and is also the church janitor.

The perfect pastor makes \$40 a week, wears good clothes, drives a good car, buys good books, and donates \$30 a week to the church.

He is 29 years old and has 40 years' experience.

Above all, he is handsome.

The perfect pastor has a burning desire to work with teenagers, and he spends most of his time with the senior citizens.

He smiles all the time with a straight face because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously dedicated to his church.

He makes 15 home visits a day and is always in his office to be handy when needed.

The perfect pastor always has time for church council and all of its committees. He never misses the meeting of any church organization and is always busy evangelizing the unchurched.

The perfect pastor is always in the next church over!

If your pastor does not measure up, simply send this notice to six other churches that are tired of their pastor, too. Then bundle up your pastor and send him to the church at the top of the list.

If everyone cooperates, in one week you will receive 1,643 pastors.

One of them should be perfect.

Have faith in this letter. One church broke the chain and got its old pastor back in less than three months.

amazon
wishlist

Stewardship

Of the three things a person is not to talk about in polite company – religion, politics, and money – the church is called, in one way or another, to talk about all three. Perhaps this is the reason why teaching about stewardship often seems to be an afterthought. It's something that happens only out of necessity when financial constraints are already nipping at the heels.

There is a more excellent way. Stewardship shouldn't be the kind of teaching that comes up only when there is a financial crunch. It should be part and parcel of the ongoing instruction of Christians as they live out their faith in their vocations – members of their family, their society, and their church. This teaching touches upon every facet of our lives; it stakes a claim upon our time, our presence, our prayers, and our possessions.

Stewardship begins with the acknowledgment that we are stewards. A steward is a manager of someone else's possessions. In Christian stewardship, we recognize, according to the Apostles' Creed, that God is the owner of all things as the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. And in His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, He gives us what is His to manage here below.

The principal virtue for stewards is faithfulness. As St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth:

“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.” (1 Cor. 4:2)

Stewards must manage that which belongs to the owner according to the owner's wishes. That is what it means to be faithful in stewardship.

That raises a question: How are Christian stewards to be faithful in their managing of what God has entrusted to them to manage? In other words, what are the specific duties of a Christian steward?

This depends upon what God has revealed in His Word for each of our vocations in life as those in a family (fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, children), society (governors or citizens), and the church (pastors or laity). The Table of Duties from *Luther's Small Catechism* lays this out in helpful and orderly way.

Let's look just at what the laity (hearers as it is labeled in the catechism) owe their pastors:

“In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.” (1 Cor. 9:14)

“Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” (Gal. 6:6–7)

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer deserves his wages.’ ” (1 Tim. 5:17–18)

“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.” (1 Thess. 5:12–13)

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.” (Heb. 13:17)

We can see that the Lord commands hearers to support the work of the ministry with the gifts God endowed them – their time, their presence, their prayers, and their possessions. This is the means by which God blesses His people with His gifts: the ministry with the support of those whom they serve, and the hearers with the work of the ministry.

St. Paul expounds upon this further in his letters to the church at Corinth. He instructs them to give regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first-fruits (1 Cor. 16:2) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

All of this teaching is set forth squarely within the context of stations to which God calls us. This is always appropriate for the church to speak because it instructs God's people in how they are to live out their faith as His stewards under those who are created, redeemed, and sanctified by Him.

*-The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod /
Stewardship Ministry*