

FAITH at WORK

February 2021



Brothers and Sisters,

Lent is the perfect season for this time. It is a season of repentance and reflection. It begins with Jesus in the wilderness confronting the devil. This year we will follow that in the gospel of Mark. Mark has been described as a wartime gospel, where all the forces of sin, death and darkness, from the Roman Emperor, to the devil, to demons, scribes, illness, hunger, want and everything else are confronted by Jesus.

It is appropriate, as we continue in this time of pandemic where we are at war with the virus that we are in Lent with Mark's gospel. In this time, we are reminded that we are not alone in this, that we have Jesus right here beside us, journeying through this time of wilderness, doubt and struggle. He is with us and we are never alone.

This Lent, I hope that you can find meaning. For my devotionals I have been reading a new translation of the Old Testament by Robert Alter. I've appreciated different words on the same story: God's passion for the world and all it's people. The words, slightly different from the NRSV (the version we use in worship), help me to hear it again.

That's some of my spiritual journey. Find a way in this time, to see meaning. It could be through reading a gospel, or beginning a prayer journal or taking on a Lenten discipline, or watching the Chosen (a series with a different take on Jesus), or by praying for those on our

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Faith Lutheran Church

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prayer list. Find a way, in this wilderness to connect with Jesus, the Son of God, the light of the world. He is with you, he is with us. We are not alone.

Pastor Mark

February's Worship Schedule

Feb 7: Zoom Fellowship/ Pericope @9:00 AM
Outdoor Service (Parking Lot) & Facebook Livestream @ 10:30 AM

Scout Sunday: Faith Lutheran Church is the charter organization for a number of different scout troops/packs. Our Scouts will be helping with the parking lot service today, as a way to participate in the life of our charter organization.

Feb. 14: Zoom Fellowship/ Pericope @9:00 AM
Facebook Livestream @ 10:30 AM

Feb. 17: Ash Wednesday
Drive Up Service @ 12:00 PM
Facebook Livestream @ 7:00 PM

Feb 21: Zoom Fellowship/ Pericope @9:00 AM
Facebook Livestream @ 10:30 AM

Feb. 24: Ecumenical Virtual Lent Service @ 7:00 PM

Feb. 28: Zoom Fellowship/ Pericope @ 9:00 AM
Outdoor Service (Parking Lot) & Facebook Livestream @ 10:30 AM

(Youtube Sermons are available every Sunday!)

This is our worship schedule for February. If you haven't joined us for our 9 am bible study before, you might consider checking it out. It's a study and fellowship time and is a nice way to start your Sunday. At 10:30 there will be a livestream on Pastor Mark's Facebook page of the service for that particular day, either the parking lot service (with communion) or a service of the word (either from the church or Pastor Mark's home). And finally Pastor Mark tapes the sermon and/or service every week as well. What this means is that you have worship opportunities each and every Sunday, many and various ways to stay safe and stay spiritual.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 2020**STAFF**

Pastor	Mark Bringman
Office Manager	Nance G
Organist/Pianist	Cheryl B.
Custodian	Terry B.

CHURCH COUNCIL

President	Charles Bonville
Vice President	Kim Sass
Secretary	Nancy George
Treasurer	Janice Virnig
Financial Secretary	John Berg
Education /youth	Andrea Daniels
Evangelism & Mission	Dick Olsen
Fellowship & Social Con- cerns	Peggy Preston
Property Management	Jon Aaberg
Stewardship & Resources	Gordy Gamet
Worship & Music	Terry Virnig
Mission Endowment Fund	Gordy Gamet



**God, Father and Creator,
We thank you for all the gifts
You have given us,
especially the gift of your Son,
Jesus Christ.**

**During this holy season of Lent,
Help us to change and grow
becoming the kind of people
you created us to be.**

**Fill our hearts with love for you,
and love for other people,
created in your image.**

**Show us how to use the gifts you have given us
to help others in your name.**

**As we journey together toward
the light of Easter,
We know you are with us in all we do.**

**May we live always as people
of your kingdom
Praising your name now and forever.
Amen**

**Financial Report as of 1/25/2021**

Undesignated Income: \$5,449.02

Budgeted Undesignated Income: \$8,885.00

Net Undesignated Income: (3,435.99)

Total Expenses: \$10,380.23

Total Net Income: \$783.79

Zoom Bible Study Monday's @ 1:00 PM

4

We have a bible study on Mondays at 1 pm. During the pandemic this group has been doing books of the Bible (most recently books of the Apocrypha as that was interesting to the group). This month we are going to start by focusing on the book of Judith – an early Jewish novella who's first half is focused on all the might of the world coming to bear against the small town of Bethulia. We are going to pick up with the second half, where Judith (who is an everywoman, her name literally means woman of Judea) leads the defense and takes on the enemy general, Holofrenes, on her own. We would love to have you join us!

Church Council Meeting

The Church council will be meeting on February 10th at 7 pm. If you would like to listen in via zoom, send a message to Pastor Mark or one of the council members and the link will be sent to you.

Council reports are due by February 5th.



We are asking anyone in the prayer chain to lift up the concerns of Faith Lutheran Church weekly (which could be as little as taking a few seconds and asking God to be with all of those listed, lifting them up by name) and to pray for other concerns as they are shared. Peggy Preston will be heading up the prayer chain. If you are interested in being on the prayer chain, send her an email: pegpreston@aol.com



Food, Paper Products and Hygiene Items will be collected this quarter (January through March) for FISH of Albany. Please leave items in basket by the double glass doors. Thanks in advance for your generosity!



On Valentine's Day, we pray to remember the origin of all love. All glory to our Lord and God for love so deep, so high, so broad: The Trinity whom we adore forever and forevermore. Fill our hearts with love, peace and joy and help us share it with others. Amen

Ash Wednesday Worship Services (February 17th)

5

Outdoor Service @ 12:00 PM

Facebook Streaming @ 7:00 PM

Readings for Ash Wednesday:

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Isaiah 58: 1-12

Psalm 51: 1-17

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21



Ash Wednesday is the start to Lent, a time of penance, reflection and repentance. You are invited to join us for a worship on this day. Pastor Mark will record a service that will be available over youtube, you can do a drive up service on Wednesday at noon and there will be a service on Facebook at 7:00 pm that evening. We hope that you can join us for worship one of the ways on that day, as we enter in to the journey of Lent.

Ashes to Go

Faith Lutheran Church has a number of packets of ashes to go. These ashes are in envelopes, along with a prayer card and instructions on use. Each packet contains sufficient ashes for 4 people, so couples and families can share. Please pick up ashes either at the service on February 7th or make arrangements with Pastor Mark or Nancy – we are glad to help this Lent be meaningful for you.

Pick up ashes at the service on February 7th or contact Pastor Mark or Nancy to arrange a time.



Mar. 17: Ecumenical Service @ 7:00 PM

Mar. 24: :Ecumenical Service @ 7:00 PM

Feb. 24: Ecumenical Service @ 7:00 PM

Mar. 3: Ecumenical Service @ 7:00 PM

Mar. 10: :Ecumenical Service @ 7:00 PM

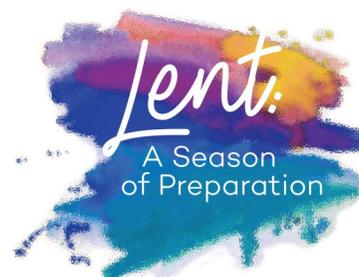
We will be doing ecumenical services over Zoom with other congregations in the area. The service on the 24th will be hosted by St Albans, the 3rd we will host and the 10th will be first Christian. We are still working on scheduling with congregations services on the other Wednesdays and will let you know more in the next months' newsletter.

ELCA Devotions During Lent

If you have a computer, just query ELCA Lent 2021 and both of these documents can be downloaded. If you would like a hard copy, let the church office know and we can mail you one.

⇒ ELCA Word Hunger Devotions (40 DAYS OF Giving)

⇒ ELCA (Year B Lent) (Daily Reading & Prayer)



While we have been meeting virtually/in the parking lot, our property committee has been hard at work with regular maintenance and special projects at the church. This has taken the form of everything from assisting with the floor maintenance project to the installation of heat pumps in the fellowship hall, preschool area and family tree, to provide more energy efficient temperature regulation. The property committee often volunteers for this as a service to the church. If you would be willing to volunteer, please contact Jon Aaberg, the chair of the committee – we could use more volunteers! And these projects are predominantly done individually or at a COVID safe distance outdoors

Candlemas History



Groundhog Day is February 2nd. This holiday isn't just about shadows and winter weather predictions, as most of us believe. This observance, also known as Candlemas goes way back in history to biblical times.

The Law of Moses stated that parents were obligated to bring their first born son to the church and make an offering to God on his behalf. This took place (usually) after the baby was 40 days old. This is based on the biblical teaching that Mary also presented Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem following his 40-day period of purification after he was born. So, Jesus was born on December 25, add 40 days and you get February 2nd!

When Jesus was presented, an old, devout Jew named Simon, held the baby in his arms and said that He would be, "A light to lighten the Gentiles." (Luke 2:32) This is how February 2nd became known as Candlemas (or Candelaria); and, since the 11th Century with the blessing of candles.

It is also called the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, in the Eastern church. But, it's called the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Western church. No matter what it's called, the celebrations both have the same format and are significant for the blessing of candles and candlelight processions.

There are those, however, who feel that forming a procession with candles really originates back to the Romans who had a custom of going around the city in February with a candle procession. So the candle procession wasn't created by Christians, however when the Christians attempted to Christianize the Romans, they borrowed this custom of using candles in religious services. So, in 494 C.E. Pope Gelasius I created the Feast of the Purification of the Virgin Mary. Ironically, it was also used to kindle a "brand" left over from the Yule log at Christmas.



Groundhog Day

Groundhog Day (Pennsylvania German) is a popular North American tradition observed in the United States and Canada on February 2. It derives from the Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that if groundhog emerging from its burrow on this day sees its shadow due to clear weather, it will retreat to its den and winter will persist for six more weeks; but if it does not see its shadow because of cloudiness, spring will arrive early.

The weather lore was brought from German-speaking areas where the badger (German: *Dachs*) is the forecasting animal. This appears to be an enhanced version of the lore that clear weather on the Christian festival of Candlemas forebodes a prolonged winter.

Happy New Year from Camp Lutherwood Oregon!

For all of us, 2020 has been challenging in ways we never imagined. As we close out this year, despite the difficulties, we have much to be grateful for, especially you! If we have learned anything over the past two years at Camp Lutherwood, it is that we can overcome many obstacles and still stay true to our mission.

Despite fires, pandemics and the inability to have guests at camp there is hope and excitement for all that is ahead. In the style of "The 12 Days of Christmas" here are just a few of the things we are celebrating at the close of 2020.

12 months of learning to be flexible as an organization while navigating yet another unprecedented year with a major building project and COVID-19 regulations, while continuing to trust that camp can adapt to the many changes required.

11 cabin buildings ready for guests and campers to return soon, we are hopeful for summer 2021 and are working on program planning for families and campers to enjoy camp safely.

10 fantastic Board members who once again helped navigate through uncharted territory; a fire in 2019 and pandemic in 2020. Their wisdom, guidance and support of Camp Lutherwood is amazing!

9 months without campers and guests due to COVID-19 which allowed us to complete the dining hall and other important site upgrades such as the A-Frame bathrooms, firebreaks and the new bridge.

8 unique ecosystems make camp a destination for outdoor education and allow for strong partnerships with Outdoor School providers all over Oregon. We are hoping for ODS groups to return in spring 2021.

7 fir trees were trimmed as part of our Healthy Forest Plan which is a multi-year effort to help strengthen the forests and streams at camp in partnership with Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Long Tom Watershed Council.

6 garage-style doors that open up to bring the outdoors into our new dining hall building.

5 volunteers who come each week to help with site projects; we are so grateful for their dedication.

4 feet wider is the new bridge than the old one which was in great need of replacement. We are grateful for this new safe bridge to carry cars and trucks across the creek.

3 young adult interns! Charlie, Amber and Allie are wonderful assets to the camp staff and bring unique experiences and perspectives to Camp Lutherwood! We continue to partner with The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust for the Vision and Call internship program.

2 private wine-tasting dinners sold at the Spirit of Harvest event which, along with other auction items and donations, raised over \$170,000 to support the ministry of camp in 2021.

1 group of amazing, faithful supporters (including YOU!) who have kept camp in your prayers and who have generously ensured camp will be up and running through this next year. Thank you!!

Your continued support of Camp Lutherwood Oregon keeps the mission of camp moving forward. As we near the end of 2020, please consider a gift of any size to camp. We are grateful for your ongoing commitment to Camp Lutherwood Oregon.

Blessings to you and your family this holiday season,
Andrea Scofield Executive Director



February's Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:00 AM Fellowship / Bible Study (ZOOM) 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Facebook Livestream Prayer Service	1 1:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	2	3 11:00 AM TOM's	4 8:00 AM Reports to Council Due	5	6
7 9:00 AM Fellowship / Bible Study (ZOOM) 10:30 AM Outdoor Worship & Livestream	8 1:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	9 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Mary Martha Circle	10 11:00 AM TOM's 7:00 PM Council Meeting	11	12	13
14 9:00 AM Fellowship / Bible Study (ZOOM) 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Facebook Livestream Prayer Service	15 1:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	16	17 11:00 AM TOM's 12:00 PM Ash Wednesday Outdoor Service 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday (Facebook livestream)	18	19	20 8:00 AM Newsletter Deadline
21 9:00 AM Fellowship / Bible Study (ZOOM) 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Facebook Livestream Prayer Service	22 1:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	23	24 11:00 AM TOM's 7:00 PM Lent Ecumenical Service (Virtual)	25	26	27
28 9:00 AM Fellowship / Bible Study (ZOOM) 10:30 AM Outdoor Worship & Livestream	1 1:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	2	3 11:00 AM TOM's 7:00 PM Lent Ecumenical Service (Virtual)	4 8:00 AM Reports to Council Due	5	6

For the most up-to-date version, [visit our online calendar](#)

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE NEEDING
STRENGTH, GUIDANCE AND HEALING:**

Tim B
Brenda Carroll
Sandy Hina
Robert Jon
Daniel Sullivan
Linda Gail Voet
Melba Wright
Brandon Crawford
Christopher
Noah Holman
Susan Johnson
Barbara Rose
Jerry Sheffield
Pat Norby
Eleanor Barr

Gigi Douglas
Ron Wold
Chiera Family
SangSau Tran
Silas Haynes
Cindy Harms
Izzy Covalt
Mona Crawford
Kris Waskosky
Shedd Waskosky
Kristy Bishop
Oliver
Madielynn
Stephan Selvage
Patrick Selvage

Garrett Baarsch
Carl Wogomon
Stephanie Bauthman
Marjorie Trainor
Nancy Goodwin
John Busher
Vail T. Palmer
Jordan Weber
Paul Carson
Gene Hebert
Eric Reimer
Heather
Donald Roland



**PLEASE REMEMBER
THESE FRIENDS IN
PRAYER**

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND: Ruth Irwin, Connie Griffis

OUR SYMPATHY & PRAYERS TO THOSE WHO MOURN THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES. Family and Friends of Betty Kelley and Bonnie Keys

Healing Prayer

Lord you are good and your mercies endure forever.
It's your grace that has kept us and for this we are grateful.
You are the mighty God, the one that holds the earth in place.
Your rule is unquestionable and your kingdom is forever, Amen.

All-knowing, sufficient God, the great physician, we trust you.
We know you can heal and we pray for your healing touch.
We depend on your word to bring us comfort and help us when we are
weak both in body and spirit.
Our faith is not in the utterances of men
but in your eternal grace.
We ask for your healing in the life of our friends listed above and for all
others who are in need. Amen





February

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Faith at Work

2021

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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