

# FAITH at WORK

March 2022

Sisters and brothers (you might recognize this as the first half of Pastor Mark's annual report)

2021 resembled 2020 far more than any of us would have hoped. We began the year in the parking lot, where I preached into a microphone so that people could hear me in their cars and over a Facebook livestream. We came inside for worship in the sanctuary for Easter, went outside for better ventilation, inside to escape the heat, took our masks off, put our masks back on. We streamed over Facebook and YouTube, had people bring their own communion, shared communion, sang, stopped singing. We quilted, gathered for bible studies (over Zoom no less), brought food together, helped with laundry, supported sister organizations. We did a little bit of everything never quite knowing what the future might hold. In short, 2021 was a roller coaster.

What did Faith Lutheran Church accomplish during this time? Following the Holy Spirit and health advisories, we cared for each other, taking steps forward, pausing, backing up, coming together. This process has been frustrating for all of us but one thing is clear: we are God's family together, loving and caring for each other. Our community is a mix of newer members like myself and long time members who have been here for twenty years or more. Writing this at the end of January 2021, I am struck by the changes in our community: by the members



## Faith Lutheran Church

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who joined the church triumphant, by the families that have stayed home out of an abundance of caution, by the visitors who have come to our congregation regularly over the last few months.

Faith Lutheran Church is clearly in a time of transition. This was the purpose of the visioning retreats in August and October of 2021, was presented in congregational meeting in December and has been a topic of discussion. This is difficult to bring up and discuss because anything that we as a congregation do means a change from what has come before. It is always easier to keep doing things the way it was before because it is what we are familiar with.

God calls us – continually and always – into new life. In the Bible God calls Abram from his home (Genesis 12), speaks to Moses from the burning bush to bring his people to a new land (Exodus 3), calls the prophets to stir the people (see Jeremiah 1 and Isaiah 6 as examples). Jesus calls the disciples to new life in ministry (in Luke 5 among other places), calls Saul from his old life (Galatians 1 among other places). God takes people from what they know and leads them into a new life.

The Holy Spirit continually presses people from comfort and ease to take them to where the world is aching and in pain. And that change is never easy. Abraham sees his children split apart, Moses never gets to enter the promised land, the prophets are imprisoned, the disciples are persecuted, Paul; is arrested. But people go from certainty to uncertainty because God is with them, because the triune God, Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier, stirs in them.

We at Faith Lutheran Church are working hard to discern where God is calling us. We do this confident in God's presence among us. We don't know what it will lead our congregation to. Changes could lead to a revitalization and growth in our numbers. Changes could lead to a deepening of our faith and a nurturing of the community here. Changes could bring about inward, Spirit led growth and no external growth.

I don't know what the future of Faith Lutheran Church is, but I know that God is with us in it.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Mark

## Saint Patrick's Prayer

"As I arise today,  
may the strength of God pilot me,  
the power of God uphold me,  
the wisdom of God guide me.

May the eye of God look before me,  
the ear of God hear me,  
the word of God speak for me.

May the hand of God protect me,  
the way of God lie before me,  
the shield of God defend me,  
the host of God save me.

May Christ shield me today.

Christ with me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,

Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit, Christ  
when I stand,

Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.

Amen.



Faith Lutheran Church		2022
<b>Staff</b>		
<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Mark Bringman</b>	
<b>Office Manager</b>	<b>Carol Armstrong</b>	
<b>Organist/Pianist</b>	<b>Cheryl Blum</b>	
<b>Custodian</b>	<b>Terry Bushnell</b>	
<b>Church Council</b>		
<b>President</b>	<b>Terry Virnig</b>	
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Kim Sass</b>	
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Alice Weber</b>	
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Janice Virnig</b>	
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	<b>John Berg</b>	
<b>Education/Youth</b>		
<b>Evangelism &amp; Mission</b>	<b>Dick Olsen</b>	
<b>Fellowship &amp; Social</b>	<b>Peggy Preston</b>	
<b>Property Management</b>	<b>Jon Aaberg</b>	
<b>Stewardship &amp; Resources</b>		
<b>Worship &amp; Music</b>	<b>Jackye Brown</b>	
<b>Mission Endowment</b>	<b>Carol Olufson</b>	



### Financial Update

#### Financial Report as of 2/25/2022:

Undesignated Income: \$5,775.14

Budgeted Undesignated Income: \$7,916.00

Net Undesignated Income: **(\$2,140.86)**

Total Expenses: \$10,383.13

Total Net Income: **(\$1,016.34)**

# *Church Announcements and Events*

## **Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras—Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> @ 2pm**

Pastor Mark will be burning the palms on the back patio and will have a brief (10 minute service) for all those who wish to participate. Please let him know if you wish to join.

## **Ash Wednesday Services—Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> @11:30am &7:00pm**

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the great 40 days, the beginning of Lent. It recalls the curse of Genesis 3:19 "you are dust and to dust shall return." It is a reminder that we are both saint and sinner; that we fall short of God's hopes for us. It is the beginning of a season of repentance and renewal.

Ash Wednesday has a few liturgical elements to it. **Imposition of Ashes:** this is where the name of the day comes from. On Shrove Tuesday (or Mardi Gras) the dried palms from Palm Sunday are burned. These ashes are mixed with oil, which we use for anointing, and are then placed upon our forehead. This is a powerful reminder, on one hand, of our mortality. The ashes are dead and burned, there seems to be no life in them. On the other hand, it is a reminder of God's eternal promise; the ashes are placed on our forehead in the place where we are anointed during baptism. It is the cross, the sign of Christ's death and resurrection; that is placed on our head. Thus it reminds us that we will die and be pulled through the waters of death to new life in Christ.

**Confession of Sins:** in the Lutheran tradition, our worship often begins with a corporate confession of sin (where we inwardly confess our sins to God). After this, on Sundays we hear the declaration of forgiveness. On Ash Wednesday, alone of the year, we confess our sins, hear the promise of forgiveness but do not have the declaration of forgiveness. In a sense it is a 'hanging' confession, waiting through the entirety of Lent, until Maundy Thursday where we together declare to each other the forgiveness of sin in obedience to God's command.

**Communion:** We eat together the Lord's Supper every Sunday. Ash Wednesday is also a good time to begin our time of Lent together. It reminds us that while we might fast in Lent, from chocolate, or meat, or social media, or television, while we might fast from many things that we never fast from our relationship with God. Though we might, in brokenness and sin, turn away from God, again and again, God turns us back to God.

## **Lenten Worship—Wednesdays @ 11:30am & 7:00pm**

**March 9· 16· 23 & 30**

### **Growing Into the Tree of Life**

This worship series will be short, less than half hour. Services will be based around the theme of the tree of life. We hope that you will join us.

## Monday Study Group—March 7, 14, 21, 28 @ 1pm

### AD: The Bible Continues

We are going to be using a television series as our guide for this next study, called *AD: The Bible Continues*. This series is the sequel to 2013's *The Bible* and focuses on the Resurrection and what follows it. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 1 pm and over zoom at the link below.

The group might meet on March 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> for Fellowship and prayer. Since the membership of this group is steady week to week, please check with Kim Sass, Pam Nelson, Shirley Karstens, Peggy Preston or Pastor Mark to confirm our meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84235999614?pwd=RjZuSHIDSEnvWmpabUk5bmFhV2wvdz09> Meeting ID: 842 3599 9614  
Passcode: 934792

## Dean's Retreat March 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>h</sup>

Pastor Mark is the dean of the Vineyard Cluster of the ELCA. There is a retreat of the deans and he will be attending after worship on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> through Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

As Dean of the Vineyard Cluster, he has been asked by the synod to work with congregations in the area to support them in a number of ways. For example: working on synod initiatives, coordinating installations & retirements, organizing weekly pastors' meetings & bible studies, helping with the synod assembly, etc. This retreat was originally planned for the end of January but was moved to March because of the Omicron surge.

## Sunday Matinee in the Sanctuary—March 27th @ 2pm

### The Chosen (Video Series)

We will continue with another two episodes of **The Chosen** on March 27<sup>th</sup>. The episodes focus on the wedding at Cana, Jesus continuing to gather disciples, and his healing ministry beginning in earnest. This is an easy series to jump into – even if you didn't watch the first few episodes, we would love to have you join us.

## Pastor Mark's Monthly Week Off—March 21<sup>st</sup> through 26<sup>th</sup>

Pastor Mark's week off begins Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> through Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. While he WILL be available for pastoral emergencies during this week, he will NOT be in the office or doing church related activities. He WILL be leading Worship Services for all Sundays in March.

## Synod Cluster Virtual Dinner 2.0— Roundtable on Racial Justice

March 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:30pm in your homes over Zoom

In advance of the synod assembly, the synod is inviting clusters (groups of congregations in the same geographical area) to gather for a virtual dinner. The focus of this roundtable is racial justice, recognizing that the ELCA is one of the least, if not the least, diverse denominations/religious groups in the country. Pastor Mark, as dean of the Vineyard Cluster, is hosting this dinner. If you want to join over Zoom, the link is below

**Join Zoom Meeting** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85769433941?pwd=by9SU2ZweDIweTlMeHlMa3VhUVoxQT09> Meeting ID: 857 6943 3941  
Passcode: 912994

## Theology Pub

Pastor Mark is looking to start a group that meets monthly at the Barn for a theology pub discussion. He has a number of one page discussion sheets on topics such as Hell, Creation, Faith & Money, Sexuality, etc. Basically it would work like this:

Looking ahead at the weather, he would pick an evening when the weather was looking nice. This will not have a set night, instead it's going to be based on who is available and weather – on a Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday night (the barn is closed on Mondays). He will message the church and send texts to those who have expressed an interest.

Let him know if you are interested.

## Save the Date! April 9th

The Annual Spring Cleaning Event is scheduled for April 9th beginning at 9am  
Many hands are needed to make “light work” of this endeavor! All are encouraged to participate.



## A Special Thankyou

Thank you to Wally Oster for donating the Paschal Candle in memory of his dear wife, Alberta Oster. A dedication ceremony is planned for April.



A Thank you note has been received from Luther House Campus Ministry for the \$300 donation of proceeds from the Bazaar. They are grateful for your generosity.



**Oregon Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
 God's work. Our hands.

Our Cluster is currently without a Representative for Synod Council. If you are interested in completing this unfinished term (Extends through August 2023) please let Pastor Mark know.

The makeup of the Synod Council requires a combination of genders and classification as rostered or lay. To stay within the requirements, the person filling this position needs to be either a woman or a person that is gender fluid, and can be either a lay or rostered classification. Rostered classification includes pastors and deacons.

Individuals that are interested in doing this important work of the church, should have the time and energy to engage, and have talents that will benefit the synod.



## Daffodondilly

She wore her yellow sun-bonnet,  
 She wore her greenest gown;  
 She turned to the south wind  
 And curtsied up and down.  
 She turned to the sunlight  
 And shook her yellow head,  
 And whispered to her neighbor "Winter is dead."

~A.A.Milne

## March Worship Schedules

March 2: 11:30am & 7::00pm Ash Wednesday Services  
 March 6: 10:30 AM Live Worship & Streaming  
 March 9: 11:30am & 7::00pm Lenten Services  
 March13: 10:30 AM Live Worship & Streaming  
 March 16: 11:30am & 7::00pm Lenten Services  
 March 20: 10:30 AM Live Worship & Streaming  
 March 23: 11:30am & 7::00pm Lenten Services  
 March 27: 10:30 AM Live Worship & Streaming  
 March 30: 11:30am & 7::00pm Lenten Services

## Quilting and TOMs

Wednesdays at 9 AM



Wednesday mornings are a busy time at Faith Lutheran Church. We have quilters working to create comforting quilts that are donated to bring people warmth, privacy and shelter. If you are interested in joining them, there is always plenty to do.

The TOMS (stands for The Old Men, though age and gender are not requirements for the group) are busy working to keep our church property maintained and our grounds clean. If you have skills to share or able hands and a willing heart, the TOMs will always welcome some help.

## Mary Martha Circle



This is a Bible Study for women. We will be meeting on Second Tuesday of Each Month @ 1 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us and bring a friend! If you would like more information, please call Karen Glenn at 541-928-4729 or Shirley Karstens at 541-967-8309.

**Prayer Chain:** 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](mailto:pegpreston@aol.com)**



**\*A new Prayer Chain Coordinator is needed. If you are interested in serving in this vital role, please email Peggy Preston at: [pegpreston@aol.com](mailto:pegpreston@aol.com).**

## American Red Cross Blood Drive

March 31, 2022 from 10am—4pm

Faith Lutheran Church is hosting a Blood Drive on Thursday, March 31, 2022 in the Fellowship Hall. To schedule an appointment, call 800-733-2767 OR sign up online at: [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) using Sponsor code: [faithlutheranalbany](http://faithlutheranalbany)

Blood Drive





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	<b>2</b> 9:00 AM Quilters 9:00 AM TOMs 11:30 AM Ash Wed. Service 7:00 PM Ash Wed. Service	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00 AM String Therapy 10:00 AM Reports to Council Due	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 10:30 AM Indoor Worship & livestreaming	<b>7</b> 1:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	<b>8</b> 1:00 PM Mary Martha Circle 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	<b>9</b> 9:00 AM Quilters 9:00 AM TOMs 11:30 AM Lenten Service 7:00 PM Council Meeting 7:00 PM Lenten Service	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:00 AM String Therapy	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 10:30 AM Indoor Worship & livestreaming	<b>14</b> 1:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	<b>15</b> 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	<b>16</b> 9:00 AM Quilters 9:00 AM TOMs 11:30 AM Lenten Service 7:00 PM Lenten Service	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:00 AM String Therapy 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM 20th Century Book Club	<b>19</b> 9:00 AM Circle of Friends (Peggy's House)
<b>20</b> 8:00 AM Newsletter Deadline 10:30 AM Indoor Worship & livestreaming	<b>21</b> 7:00 AM Pastor Mark's Off 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	<b>22</b> 7:00 AM Pastor Mark's Off 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	<b>23</b> 7:00 AM Pastor Mark's Off 9:00 AM Quilters 9:00 AM TOMs 11:30 AM Lenten Service 3:30 PM Worship & Music Committee 7:00 PM Lenten Service	<b>24</b> 7:00 AM Pastor Mark's Off	<b>25</b> 7:00 AM Pastor Mark's Off 9:00 AM String Therapy	<b>26</b> 7:00 AM Pastor Mark's Off
<b>27</b> 10:30 AM Indoor Worship & livestreaming 11:15 AM Fellowship Meeting	<b>28</b> 1:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	<b>29</b> 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	<b>30</b> 9:00 AM Quilters 9:00 AM TOMs 11:30 AM Lenten Service 7:00 PM Lenten Service	<b>31</b> 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive		

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

	Worship Leader Team 2022				
<b>March</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>
	<b>Ash Wed.</b>				
Assisting Ministers	Shirley AM	Diane	Carol	Pam	Jeff
	Elaine PM				
Altar Prep	Nancy	Pam	Elaine	Aabergs	Jeff
Ushers	Nancy AM	Kim	Wally	Elaine	Diane
	Jon PM	Dick	Nancy	Dick	Wally
Sound Technician	John AM	Jon	Terry	Gordy	John

\* Volunteers are needed for all Worship Leader roles. If you are interested in serving in any capacity, please contact Pastor Mark or the church office.



## Covid-19 Practices at Faith Lutheran Church

Out of love and concern for our neighbors, Faith Lutheran Church will be following the practices listed below:

- Masks are mandatory indoors
- Masks are mandatory outdoors if six feet cannot be maintained between people (OHA Mandate 8/27/2021)
- Keep social distance (6 feet apart)
- No food or beverages indoors
- We **WILL** continue to share in the meal of salvation
- 

**As Martin Luther said, “God doesn’t need your good works but your neighbor does.”**

## Prayer List

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



Tim B	Ron Wold	John & Margarite Fusaro
Brenda Carroll	Chiera Family	Lee Horst
Sandy Hina	Cindy Harms	Kerry Casner
Robert Jon	Izzy Covalt	Margaret Rowland
Daniel Sullivan	Oliver	Allison
Linda Gail Voet	Garrett Baarsch	Olivia Hunter
Melba Wright	Stephanie Bauthman	Shelley
Brandon Crawford	Carl Wogomon	Jackye Brown
Noah Holman	John Busher	Peggy Preston
Jerry Sheffield	Gene Hebert	Jordan Hall
Pat Norby	Heather	
Gigi Douglas	Julie Shaw	

**REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND: Ruth Irwin, Connie Griffis, Izzy Covalt, Cindy Harms, Margaret Rowland, Melba Wright, Sangsau Tran**

**OUR SYMPATHY & PRAYERS TO THOSE WHO MOURN THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES:**

## Prayer of Healing

**O Lord, I come before you today in need of your healing hand. In you, all things are possible. Hold my heart within yours, and renew my mind, body, and spirit. You gave us life, and you also give us the gift of infinite joy. Give me the strength to move forward on the path you've laid out for me. Guide me towards better health, and give me the wisdom to identify those you've placed around me to help me get better. In your name I pray, Amen.**





Faith at Work

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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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