

FAITH at WORK

June 2022

Sisters and brothers in Christ –

We are doing things a bit differently this summer. Typically we follow the RCL (Revised common lectionary), a three year cycle of scripture. This is a practice that our Roman Catholic, Methodist, Episcopalian, Presbyterian etc. neighbors also follow.

This summer we are going to follow through a series called Unraveled, a series about when our plans fall apart. We are doing this for a few reasons:

Something new can stir us from the past and invite us to hear the ancient words of scripture in a new way. New ears can help us encounter the word in a fresh way. This series has connected art and study materials to engage as well.

More importantly we are doing this as a reminder that our lives continually fall apart. Humanity is both saint and sinner. That means that our plans do not work, they fall apart. How often has one of your plans fallen apart, collapsed? How often have things fallen through your hands?

And yet God loves us and never leaves us in the midst of struggle and pain. This summer, we invite to worship with the God who sticks with us, through thick and thin, through good and bad, when things work and when things fall apart. Because when our plans fall apart, God's plans are still together.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Mark Bringman



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Ode to Fathers

God took the strength of a mountain,

The majesty of a tree,

The warmth of a summer sun,

The calm of a quiet sea,

The generous soul of nature,

The comforting arm of night,

The wisdom of the ages,

The power of eagles flight,

The joy of a morning in spring,

The faith of a mustard seed,

The patience of eternity,

The depth of a family need,

Then God combined these qualities,

And when there was nothing more to add,

He knew his masterpiece was complete,

And so he named it —Dad.

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



Financial Update

Financial Report as of 5/19/2022:

Undesignated Income: \$12,322.36

Budgeted Undesignated Income: \$7,916.00

Net Undesignated Income: \$4,406.36

Total Expenses: \$6,333.93

Total Net Income: \$9,193.43



2022 Oregon Synod Assembly Report

—Submitted by Carol Olufson

Thank you for supporting our attendance at the recent Oregon Synod Assembly. Mary and I both appreciated the opportunity to gather with fellow Lutheran leaders and congregation members and felt invigorated by the Holy Spirit to continue to nurture our own church's vitality.

This year our event was centered around Genesis 1:1-1:2 and the theme of "Ruah: Trusting in the Spirit Jesus Promises." Dr. Susan Abraham, a theologian from the Pacific School of Religion, provided the Keynote address and ELCA churchwide representative and Senior Director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Judith Roberts presented on the work of ELCA Church wide activity.

Submitted Resolutions and Memorials Recommended to the Assembly 2022 were:

- 2022 Antiracism Resources Network
- 2022 Type of Assembly Meetings
- 2022 Reparations and Land Return Memorial
- 2022 Inclusive Call Process Resolution
- 2022 Just Transition to 50% Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2030 Memorial
- 2022 LEVO Support of IP17 & IP18

All submitted memorials and resolutions passed. Amended versions of these will be posted as soon as they are available, as well as a recording of the whole Assembly, and other resources on the Oregon Synod website: www.oregonsynod.org.

Beyond the business of budget reports, memorials, and resolutions, we attended 2 informative Workshops: Pathways Towards a Hybrid Church, and: Pathways of Transformational Transitions for Congregations: Renewed Vitality, Ecumenical Partnerships, Holy Closure and more.

We learned from the Hybrid Church sessions that no one way is the best way. Each panel member has created their way of engaging in hybrid worships, bringing creative ideas including: worships that includes both the attendees in the building and the worshipers on Zoom seeing each other, preparing a whole worship on Thursday and having it available online for several days, or starting a Podcast. Bishop Laurie asked us to reflect: How has the Pandemic changed your vision of worship? We learned that investment in equipment, time from volunteers and commitment to trial and error is necessary as we continue to evolve and evaluate our own needs for hybrid worship, Bible study or other functions.

During the Transformational Transitions session, we discussed the Life Cycle of a Church. Many of us found ourselves in the "Empty Nest" or near the "Old Age" stage. Having the hard conversations, admitting problems, recognizing change is needed, asking for help, and then doing the work helps to determine the legacy of our church. We must have the intention of allowing others to grow, and trust the Holy Spirit to lead.

Attending the Synod Assembly is always a way to reconnect with God, the Holy Spirit, congregation around Oregon, but especially those who live and worship around us in our Cluster. The Vineyard cluster enjoyed sitting and learning together and agreed to engage beyond the Synod Assembly. Finding areas or ideas where we can work, support and discover together. (continued on Page 4)

(continued from Page 3)

As Dean, Pastor Mark has already reached out to the cluster members and has set up a get together in June. We hope to keep the renewal of energy gained from the Assembly sustained as we go forward together.

Thank you again for the support in allowing us to attend the 2022 Oregon Synod Assembly. Please reach out to Mary Sabatka-Gamet or myself if you have any questions.

All of the 2022 Oregon Synod Assembly resources are available on the Synod website, including YouTube videos of the Key Note Speaker, all four sessions, celebrations of ordination, slides from the session mentioned above, etc. Access them at: [Oregonsynod.org](https://oregonsynod.org)



Church Council Update

—Submitted by Kim Sass

Pathways for transformation and partnerships

As you recall, FLC leaders and the pastor began a conversation more than a year ago around the long-term financial viability of Faith Lutheran because many faithful long-time members had died and COVID-19 made worship an ongoing challenge.

The increasing awareness of the FLC situation has given us all time for reflection and a chance to reverse the downward trend. Awareness also led to personnel reductions for significant cost savings beginning in January.

In March the council agreed that our overarching ambition is to *connect to Jesus, one another and the world.*

Work has begun on the tougher and less lofty goals and objectives

Pastor Mark offered (through the April *Faith at Work* newsletter) some spiritual devotional material for reflecting on our future together. Are you praying for FLC and the wider church? Your reflection and prayer can make a difference.

Nancy George compiled a list of all current members (as of April 11) so we have a more reasonable idea of 'who' we are.

Pastor Mark shared with the council at its May meeting that there are a number of people who are not able to attend church in person. He meets with as many as possible each month but would welcome help. Gordy Gamet, Jeanette Thorpe and Kim Sass participate in the "Mutual Ministry Committee" and are supporting our pastor as his hours have been reduced. (continued Page 5)

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Please let one of them know if you are interested in using your unique spiritual gift of kindness and a listening ear for those within FLC who find it difficult to attend worship services.

Transformation

Transformation has led us to focus our church in one or two areas where we feel God is calling us in this community. It is the desire of the council to encircle specific issues that “break our hearts” and call us to action. This also requires us to rethink all that we do so that overburdened volunteers can shine our light on what matters most.

FLC supports many groups through our campus in direct and indirect ways. There are six specific agencies, however, where we give financially but are not necessarily involved in assisting them more frequently. In April, John Berg and Kim Sass presented a ‘white paper’ of all groups we support. (If you wish a copy of this assessment, let Kim know). When asked to narrow from six to one agency for specific philanthropic support, the council, using the multiple dot voting system, selected these two agencies for more detailed information: FISH (nine votes), Albany Helping Hands (six votes).

John Berg and Pastor Mark are following up with the two agencies in May/June. *[It was also noted that FLC may have a contract with Habitat for Humanity and if we can locate that agreement and understand its details, we will need to meet with them to determine any future support since it was not selected by the council as a targeted higher need.]*

Partnership with other faith communities

FLC wishes to engage in a shared ministry with like-minded worshipping Christians.

The council assigned leadership of this directive to Mary Sabatka Gamet for more serious discussions and planning. Pastor Mark and Council President Terry Virnig are also involved. In the last few weeks Mary had direct conversations with United Presbyterian Church (downtown Albany), Pastor Brandon Lewis; and St. Alban’s Episcopal Church (Hill Street Albany), Father Bob Morrison and a lay leader. These actions resulted in:

- The exploration of a shared ecumenical community project, most likely in the fall
- The possibility of a Synod grant to underwrite parts of the community project
- With a nod from the FLC council in May, we will participate in a joint summer worship service with other churches in a local park
- Pastors Mark and Brandon will talk more about the *Theology Pub*, which both churches are sponsoring, and how those two efforts might be combined

We need your input, your involvement, your prayers. You are encouraged to talk to council members with your thoughts. We all desire JOY to return to our congregation. When JOY is mixed with thankfulness, we have the opportunity to make a noticeable impact in our community. And invite others to join us so that together we can become JOYFUL subjects of the Kingdom, and the King, whom we so dearly love.

Stay plugged in.

Church Announcements and Events

Worship and Music Planning— June 5th at 11:15 am

Please join us as we work on choosing hymns and themes for the coming months. We will aim to get a plan in place to carry us through June and July.

Cluster Meeting – June 12th at 3 pm

After synod assembly (see copies of Pastor Mark's report by the narthex) many congregations in our area wanted to get together. There has been a lot of turnover in the Vineyard Cluster over the last three years and the congregations want to do something. Pastor Mark contacted all of the congregations and invited them to a brainstorming session to plan something together: a retreat, a service project, a study series, something that we can do together.

Monday Study Group—1:00pm

June 6, 13 & 27

We are continuing our journey through Acts. Acts is the story of God working through unlikely people to change the face of creation. We hope that you can join us for this study. This group works through Scripture together, more importantly we pray and share fellowship together.

You can join us in the Fellowship Hall or via zoom at the following link.

Join Zoom Meeting [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84235999614?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84235999614?pwd=RjZuSHIDSEnvWmpabUk5bmFhV2wvdz09)

[pwd=RjZuSHIDSEnvWmpabUk5bmFhV2wvdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84235999614?pwd=RjZuSHIDSEnvWmpabUk5bmFhV2wvdz09)

Meeting ID: 842 3599 9614 Passcode: 934792

Theology Pub—Tuesday, June 14th

~6:30 @ The Barn (Hickory Station in North Albany)

This group is meeting about once a month or so for a theological discussion. This Month's topic is "Missional Church". There are a few great quotes that, I think, make a good starting point.

- *I'm completely in favor of the separation of Church and State. My idea is that these two institutions screw us up enough on their own, so both of them together is certain death. —George Carlin*
- *The church doesn't exist for itself; it exists to serve the world. It is not ultimately about the church; it's about the people God wants to bless through the church. When the church loses sight of this, it loses its heart. —Rob Bell*

American Red Cross Blood Drive June 9, 2022 from 10am—4pm

To schedule an appointment, call 800-733-2767 or sign up online at: redcrossblood.org using Sponsor code: **faithlutheranalbany**



Outdoor Worship and Picnic in the Church's Backyard—June 26th

10:30am Worship, 11:30 Picnic

A number of people enjoy worshipping outside so we try to do this at least once a year on the lawn in the Church's backyard. There is something joyous about worshipping in God's creation, hearing the song of birds, seeing the dome of the sky overhead. We hope that you will join us for this fun event.

Bring your own picnic lunch – this is an easy way to make sure everyone has what they want.

This is fair weather only – if there is rain or it is too hot, we will be in the sanctuary.

You are encouraged to bring your own chair – we have about twenty or so plastic chairs, but if you can bring a camp chair or blanket, please do.

Live-Streaming will not be available- A separately recorded message will be posted online for those who cannot attend the Outdoor Worship.

Visitors Needed for In-Home Communion and Evangelism

Our congregation has a number of sisters and a brothers who have trouble getting to church on their own. Some of these folks need a ride, others would love to have communion brought to them. At this point there are about a dozen different households who fit into one or both of these categories. If you would be willing to help (even just one visit every other month would be a big help, please let Pastor Mark know).

Rummage Sale update

The rummage sale on May 20 & 21 was very successful. Thank you to everyone who donated items and time, as well as those who made purchases. A total of \$1,364.44 was raised and added to the church treasury.



June Giving: Paper & Personal Products

- Tissue
- Toilet Paper
- Tooth Brushes
- Sanitary Items
- Shampoo
- Band-Aids
- Dish Soap (Sm. Bottles)
- Paper Towels
- Tooth Paste
- Diapers (all sizes)
- Soap (hand & bar)
- Shaving Supplies
- Laundry Detergent
- Cleansing Wipes

All non-perishable donations can be placed in a basket located in the parking lot entryway.

Church Office Hours

10:00am-2:00pm ♦ Monday—Wednesday—Friday

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 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. 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**



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.

Pastor's Week Off :

June 20 – 25

Pastor Mark will be gone the week of June 20 – 25. During this time, Pastor Sarah Schaffner will be available for any pastoral care emergency. She can be reached at: **(541)852-5637**

This is his typical week off – however, during this time, he will not be in town.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs	2 10:00am Reports to Council Due	3 9:00am String Therapy	4
5 Pentecost 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming 11:15am Pentecost Party in Fellowship Hall 11:30am Music and Worship Committee Meeting	6 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts	7 6:00pm Cub Scouts	8 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs 7:00pm Council Meeting	9 10:00am - 4:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive	10 9:00am String Therapy	11
12 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming 2:00pm - 6:00pm Oregon Synod Cluster Gathering	13 1:00pm Bible Study 2:15pm Mutual Ministry IV 7:00pm Boy Scouts	14 1:00pm Mary Martha Circle 6:00pm Cub Scouts 6:45pm Theology Pub @ the Barn	15 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs	16	17 9:00am String Therapy	18 9:00am Circle of Friends (Peggy's Gazebo)
19 Father's Day 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming	20 No Bible Study Today Pastor Mark is Off 8:00am Newsletter Deadline 7:00pm Boy Scouts	21 Pastor Mark is Off 6:00pm Cub Scouts	22 Pastor Mark is Off 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs	23 Pastor Mark is Off	24 Pastor Mark is Off 9:00am String Therapy	25 Pastor Mark is Off
26 10:30am Outdoor Worship & Pre-Recorded Service on YouTube 11:15am Fellowship Meeting 11:15am Picnic in the Church's Backyard	27 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts	28 6:00pm Cub Scouts	29 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs	30	1	2

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

Worship Leader Team 2022				
June	5	12	19	26
Assisting Ministers	Gordy	Shirley	Carol	Jeff
Altar Prep	Pam	Aabergs	Elaine	Fleishers
Ushers/Greeter	Jon	Elaine	Kim	Dick
Sound Technician	Terry	Gordy	John	Jon

PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE:

We encourage you to pray for Ukrainian people, refugees and peace. We pray for an end to war: to all wars. We pray for peace throughout the world: in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria, in all places foreign and domestic. Pray for an end to violence.



People ask what can they do? We can pray. We can give. Lutheran World Relief, UNICEF, the Methodist Committee on Relief, Catholic Charities, etc. all are working to help with the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. I am sharing the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) link here, please consider giving if you can: (click on the give Ukraine button in the middle) <https://lwr.org/>



June Worship Schedule

June 5	10:30am	Worship & Streaming
June 12	10:30am	Worship & Streaming
June 19	10:30am	Worship & Streaming
June 26	10:30am	Outdoor Worship & Pre-recorded YouTube



Prayer List



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

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

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SEEKING TO GROW THEIR FAITH

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

A Prayer of Worship and Praise

O God, as I look about today, I see sadness, anger and hatred all around me. But I will not be afraid. I know you are greater than anything I may face and that only you can set straight the road ahead. So I shall put all of my trust in you and praise you with a glad heart. I will praise you with the sounding of trumpets and music; I will dance and sing with my heart full of joy. I will praise you with the clash of cymbals and the steady beat of my drum. Praise to you, O God, for loving me and keeping me safe in your arms. Amen



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PLACE
STAMP
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