

FAITH at WORK

August 2022

Friends in Christ,

This summer has been a different time for our community. Some of the world's features seem like a blast from the past: a cooler summer like many of you grew up with in Oregon, tensions with Russia, high inflation and long lines for gasoline. Others are more familiar: too many political ads near an election, travels during Oregon's beautiful summer months. Still there are newer elements: friends who are sick, trying hard to navigate in a world that is increasingly online with those darn computers.

Many of us want the world to go back to the way it was. That might mean 2019 or 2000, or 1980 or even 1960. But if our vision for God's future is a return to the past, we are missing something. One of my prayers, especially over the last year, has been for discernment for what the Holy Spirit is calling Faith Lutheran to.

Think of it like the candles in the chancel. Why are there candles there? Many of those candles would have been used in congregations before electric light, so that a pastor and members would be able to read. Even though we have electric lights now, candles still have meaning and don't hurt anything, so we still use them. They remind us of the traditions of our ancestors – and there is no good reason to change them.

But on the other hand, there have been appropriate changes. We use a Bible translation that reflects our language rather than King James. I wear a microphone so that people listening at home can hear what I say. As faithful Christians are inspired to write new hymns, we sing hymns that reflect diverse and new traditions and communities. I've enjoyed preaching from a different liturgy this summer – it's helped me to examine texts that I have never studied before (such as Job 28 on August 21st).

God's love for us is constant and eternal. We change, we are ever in flux. As the psalmist says in Psalm 103:15 – 18:

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In This Issue

- Church Announcements and Events
- Calendars
- Prayer needs

- ¹⁵ As for mortals, their days are like grass;
they flourish like a flower of the field;
¹⁶ for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.
¹⁷ But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,
¹⁸ to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments

We are all – you, me, the council, all of us, trying to discern what God is calling us to. Some of that is going to be restarting programs that existed before. Quilting and the rummage sale are two examples of events that have been restarted. Yet some of what we are called to is a new thing.

I miss Sunday morning Bible study. However, the active members of that group have expressed a desire to try new materials rather than continue using *Daily Discipleship*. I am going to restart the Sunday morning fellowship group in September– I think it's important. But it needs to be different. Would that interest you?

I'm trying the Theology Pub; we are planning a service project with other congregations to support the Albany Helping Hands Homeless Shelter; we have a movie time one Sunday a month that will restart this fall. We are trying to find the 'new things' that God is calling us to, while continuing some of the traditions of the saints. Please help us in this. What is God calling you to do in this place?

'See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

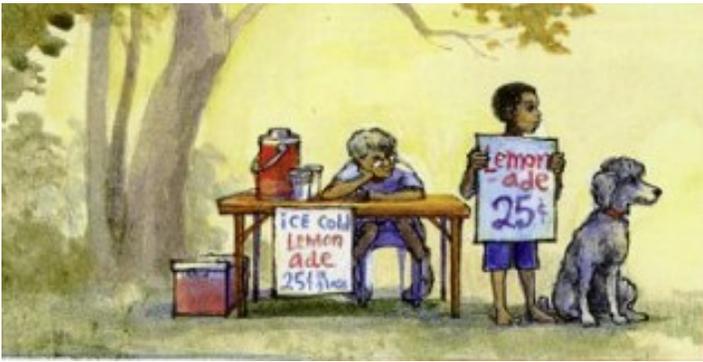
for the first things have passed away.'

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'

-Revelation 21:3b – 5a

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Mark





August

The sprinkler twirls.
The summer wanes.
The pavement wears
Popsicle stains.

The playground grass
Is worn to dust.
The weary swings
Creak, creak with rust.

The trees are bored
With being green.
Some people leave
The local scene.

And go to seaside
Bungalows
And take off nearly
All their clothes.

-John Updike

| 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 Report as of 7/19/2022:

Undesignated Income: \$5,896.00

Budgeted Undesignated In-
come: \$7,916.00

Net Undesignated Income: **(\$2,020.00)**

Total Expenses: \$5,923.53

Total Net Income: \$3,202.47

Council News

Even though the FLC Council cancelled its July meeting, activities never stop flowing in your church.

The pastor is coordinating the *Mass in the Grass* event on August 21. At last count five other mid-valley churches indicated an interest in participating. The council encourages you to attend this event – if for nothing else, just to raise our voices in unison as we worship our Creator and God, out in the lovely setting of Timber Linn Park on the east side of I-5.

Jeanette Thorpe had to make two trips to FISH of Albany in July, with an overflowing quantity of food and personal care items donated in June. Thank you to all who contributed.

She's now on a quest to fill 75 school supplies' backpacks for distribution to needy children identified by Lutheran World Relief personnel. Check the list in the fireplace room and either shop (or 'drop' some cash for her and the Social Concerns Committee to shop for you).

Many thanks to Jan Wetzel and her daughter Kathy Ebbs for their willingness to take on the Winter Bazaar. Dates are Friday November 4 and Saturday November 5. The event will mix ELCA volunteer crafters as well as renting out booths to local artisans. If you have ideas, do talk with Jan.

The **Property Committee** continues to assemble on Wednesdays. The newest member is Denice Rickard and to the TOMS amazement, she's a whiz at roller work (not of the derby kind). She, Bob Christensen and Kim Sass are the A+TEAM painters. Meanwhile, John Berg, Wally Oster and chair Jon Aaberg are keeping the grounds under control. They are also working on a project to add internet capability to the conference room/library behind the kitchen. So glad we have some smart guys on that job.

If you ever have a hankering to help out, just show up on Wednesday around 9 am and Jon will find something for you to do (for two hours). His motto is, *idle hands...*

All the committees could use some fresh faces. Don't be shy about joining up, helping out and adding some pizazz to your routine

-Submitted by Kim Sass



Church Announcements and Events

Annual School Supply Drive

Sales have begun in local stores so it's the perfect time to begin collecting items for the Annual School Supply Drive. Education is important for any community, but especially where poverty or disaster have limited the options for young people to reach their potential. School kits that contain essential supplies can help ensure they can continue learning despite the hardships they face. We have set a goal for 75 kits to be donated through Lutheran World Relief.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR EACH SCHOOL KIT:

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8 x 10 ½"; no loose-leaf paper
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- One 2 ½ inch eraser
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- Five ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons

SCHOOL SUPPLIES WILL BE COLLECTED THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1, 2022.

Pastor Mark Week Off

August 22 - 27

Because of our decision to support Pastor Mark at three-quarter time, he takes a week off from church activities each month (other than Sunday morning worship). Please remember during August 22 – 27

Vineyard Cluster meeting over Zoom in August

Date: TBD

There will be a brief cluster meeting in August for the congregations in the Vineyard cluster of the ELCA. The purpose of this meeting will be to plan an in-person activity to be held either in September or October. If you are interested in participating, please speak with Alice Weber, Jon Aaberg or Kim Sass (who were at the last one of these).

Monday Bible Study @1:00pm**August 8, 15 & 29**

This group spends time in fellowship, prayer and study – all three parts are critical to this group. You can join in person or via Zoom. We have several people who live out of our area who tune in.

We will be continuing to go through the book of Acts, picking up as the narrative shifts from a Jewish focused ministry led by Peter to Paul's ministry to the Gentiles. As we dig through Acts, we are encouraged to consider who is on the edges for us – who God is calling us to reach out to.

Communion Ministers Training**Sunday, August 14th — 11:15am**

Would you be willing to help out as a communion minister/visitor? We have a list of about a dozen people who can't get to church on their own. A meaningful way to connect with these members is as a communion minister – bringing God's meal of forgiveness to these friends.

There will be a brief (15 minute) meeting after church on August 14th when Communion Minister training will be done. If you'd be willing to visit one or two people every other month, please come to that meeting.

If you want to participate, but aren't able to come to the training, please speak with Pastor Mark.

Theology Pub—Tuesday, August 16th**~6::45pm @ The Barn (Hickory Station in North Albany)**

This group is meets once a month or so for a theological discussion and fellowship. For August, the topic will be centered around creation — What are our responsibilities for it? How does Christianity influence our ideas of being stewards of creation? How do other religions that share the biblical accounts of creation found in Genesis (Jewish, Islamic, etc.) view this responsibility? A Theology Pub Prompt (handout) will be available in early August.

Synod Newsletter

A number of folks have asked about news from the Oregon Synod. I try to share what I can as part of announcements/newsletter. The synod has an email newsletter that you can sign up for that goes out every Friday. If you want to be a part of that go to the Oregon Synod website and look for the sign-up button or follow this link: <http://oregonsynod.org/index.php/oregon-synod-email-subscription/>

Church Office Hours**10:00am-2:00pm ◆ Monday—Wednesday—Friday**

Mass in the Grass & Picnic at Timber Linn Park Sunday, August 21st —11:00am

Directions to the event: Take US HWY 20 to Price Road, turn north between Lassen Toyota and Bentley's Coffee. Use the second large gravel parking lot in-between the Veteran's Memorial and the lake. The North Shelter will be easy to spot from there.

Worship will begin at 11:00am & the picnic will immediately follow the worship service.

Several congregations and denominations will come together at the park for worship and fellowship. Participating congregations are (in alphabetical order): Faith Lutheran—Albany, First Christian—Albany, Good Shepherd Lutheran—Albany, Our Savior's Lutheran—Lebanon, St. Alban's Episcopal—Albany, and St. Martin's Episcopal—Lebanon. Other congregations have been invited and may participate as well.

It is recommended that you **bring chairs** for your group (some chairs will be provided and there are some picnic tables at the shelter).

FOR THE PICNIC: Please bring food and drink for members of your household. This just seemed to be a safer and simpler way to organize this year.

We hope you will join us for this event and fellowship. A joyful noise will be raised with all these diverse groups coming together!

Volunteers Needed!

We have different groups that meet at the church and could use volunteers or help. If your skills could be of assistance here are some areas of need.

- ◆ **Worship Leaders:** We need assisting ministers, ushers, and video – if you could do one of these tasks once a month, that would be great. Many of you sign up regularly. Thank you for that!
- ◆ **Altar Guild:** these are the folks who set up the altar every week. Pam Nelson organizes this group, feel free to reach out to her.
- ◆ **TOMS:** This group does maintenance work around the church. Jon Aaberg heads this group up and would appreciate assistance.
- ◆ **Rides:** We have some members who would love to come but need a ride to be able to. If you would be willing to pick up one of our members and bring them to church, that would be great.



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.



August Giving for FISH of Albany

All variety of non-perishable foods are needed. Please place your donations in the wicker baskets located in the parking lot entry-way.

August

2022



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|------------------------------|---|--|
| | 1 Pastor Mark Vacation 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 2 | 3 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs | 4 | 5 9:00am String Therapy 10:00am Reports to Council Due | 6 |
| 7 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming | 8 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 9 1:00pm Mary Martha Circle | 10 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs 7:00pm Council Meeting | 11 | 12 9:00am String Therapy | 13 |
| 14 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming 11:15am Communion Ministers' Training | 15 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 16 6:45pm Theology Pub @ The Barn | 17 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs | 18 | 19 9:00am String Therapy | 20 8:00am Newsletter Deadline 9:00am Circle of Friends (Peggy's Gazebo) |
| 21 9:00am - 9:30am Early Service in the Sanctuary 11:00am - 1:00pm Mass in the Grass & Picnic @ Timber Linn Park | 22 Pastor Mark Off 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 23 Pastor Mark Off | 24 Pastor Mark Off 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs | 25 Pastor Mark Off | 26 Pastor Mark Off 9:00am String Therapy | 27 Pastor Mark Off |
| 28 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming 11:15am Fellowship Meeting | 29 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 30 | 31 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs | | | |

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

A Prayer of Adoration for God's Greatness

“Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness; let us exalt his name together.”

Psalms 34:3

O Lord God, All I have to do is look around to see your greatness displayed. Creation shows me your wonderful work, your power and beauty in all things.

When I slow down from the busy-ness of life, I notice you more. I hear you in the birds singing and sense your presence in the gentle wind. I get a glimpse of your goodness in the miracle of new life. The morning sunrise reminds me of your mercies that begin fresh every day.

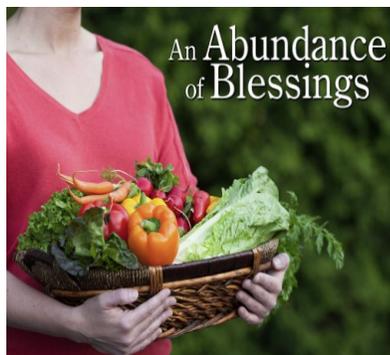
As I go about my day, I will admire how great you are by pausing to enjoy what you have created. In the holy name of your son, Jesus, I pray. Amen.

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/>



August Worship Schedule

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| August 7 | 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming |
| August 14 | 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming |
| August 21 | 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming |
| August 28 | 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming |

Prayer List



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

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Tim B | Chiera Family | Margaret Rowland |
| Brenda Carroll | Cindy Harms | Allison |
| Sandy Hina | Izzy Covalt | Olivia Hunter |
| Robert Jon | Oliver | Shelley |
| Linda Gail Voet | Garrett Baarsch | Nicholas Glass |
| Melba Wright | Stephanie Bauthman | Susie |
| Brandon Crawford | Carl Wogomon | Dan Brouwer |
| Noah Holman | John Busher | Norma Messman |
| Jerry Sheffield | Gene Hebert | Nancy Goodwin |
| Pat Norby | Heather | |
| Gigi Douglas | Julie Shaw | |
| Ron Wold | Lee Horst | |

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 for Every Day - From Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.
Guide my steps, O Lord, do not let my foot slip. Watch over me both day and night.
Be the shade at my right hand; do not let the sun harm me by day, nor the moon by night.
Dear Lord, keep me from all harm—watch over my life; watch over my comings and
goings, both now and forevermore. Amen



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