

FAITH at WORK

January 2023

Sisters and brothers in Christ –

Over the last year, the council has been considering the direction of the congregation. We, like you, have been concerned about the demographic and financial vitality of Faith Lutheran Church. We have been praying for discernment and considering options for our congregation. Our February and March meetings focused on potential paths, broadly: transformation, partnership or holy closure. We were evenly divided between the possibilities of transformation and partnership – all of the council cares deeply about Faith Lutheran Church and want to see the congregation succeed.

Our council voted on ways to focus our efforts. As part of that focus we agreed on a few approaches:

- a) To continue to pray about such matters, support each other
- b) To try new styles of worship, programs and study, to try to connect with different people in different manners. This is some of the reason that we did the Unravelling series this summer and have been doing pub theology.
- c) To deepen our relationship with a few ministry partners. This year the council committed to focusing on Helping Hands and FISH. We recognize that we have limited resources and we wanted to do more with a couple of partners rather than a little with many.
- d) To check in with local congregations and see if they were interested in doing more together.
- e) To help those in need—our service project with Helping Hands was a new opportunity for us. This project was a chance to work with a local ministry partner (St. Albans was a big help) and for people who don't connect on Sundays.

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Faith Lutheran Church

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At our October meeting, the council reflected on the progress over the past 10 months and recognized that our congregation seems to be approaching 2023 in a similar position to how we began 2022. We know we need to adjust course and requested that Bishop Laurie Larson come down to meet with us. She will be visiting on January 15th for worship and has scheduled time to share her guidance and insights with us during a working lunch. We hope that you will join us.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Mark



JANUARY.

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**Sing a song of winter,
Frost is in the air
Sing a song of winter,
Snowflakes everywhere.
Sing a song of winter,
Hear the sleigh bells chime
Can you think of anything as nice as
wintertime?**

**Skaters at play, gliding away;
Gracefully waltzing to music gay!
Ting-ting-a-ling, Ting-ting-a-ling;
Merry little sleigh bells.
The skaters are swaying,
They hear music playing;
The Ting-ting-a-ling, Ting-ting-a-ling,
of the sleigh bells.**

Make It A New Year

Make it a new year, Lord!
Blot our the old—
Make of its errors and sorrows and pain
The breath of a tale that is told!

Make it a new year, Lord!
Send a new light on its days,
Lift up the hearts of the sorrowing ones
And lead us along in new ways!

Make it a new year, Lord!
Give us new visions of life;
Wipe out the causes of conflict and wars
And make thou and end of all strife!

Make it a new year, Lord!
Set a new star in our sky;
Lead us along with a purpose that's strong,
External, exalted and high!

—by Frances M. Morton



Faith Lutheran Church		2023
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	



Undesignated Income: \$6,563.32

Budgeted Undesignated Income: \$7,916.00

Net Undesignated Income: **(\$1,352.68)**

Total Expenses: \$4,726.17

Total Net Income: \$6,960.84

Church Announcements and Events

Pastor Mark Off

Sunday, January 1

Pastor Mark will be off on January 1 and won't return until Tuesday, January 3 (the office is closed on January 2 for the federal holiday).

Music & Worship Planners —2:00pm

Thursday, January 5

Music & Worship planners will be meeting in January to pick hymns and themes for worship. We invite you to join us and appreciate input from as many as possible in this planning.

Installation of Council

Sunday, January 8

On Sunday, January 8, during the church service we will be installing our council for the coming year. We hope that you can join us as we pray for those leading our congregation.

Monday Study Group—1:00pm

January 9, 23 & 30

This month we will be meeting to watch some videos together – either a movie set around the time of Acts or a retelling of Jesus as if he were living in Montreal in the 1980s. This will be our focus until sometime between the end of this month and early February – we try to change the topics often to make this group meeting interesting for a everybody.

This is a hybrid study meaning that meets both in-person and on-line. If you are interested in joining from home, please contact Pastor Mark and he will provide you with the weekly link.

Theology Pub @ The Barn—6:30pm (Hickory Station in North Albany)

Tuesday, January 10

Theology pub is designed for low key conversations around topics of faith. This month we are going ask you to submit questions that you always wanted to ask a pastor and never asked—this will be for all of the people at the pub (including Pastor Mark) to discuss together. Cards to write your questions on are available on the table in the Fireside Room now through Sunday, January 8th. Just drop them in the basket and Pastor Mark will collect them.

Bishop's Visit

Sunday, January 15

Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar will be with us in worship on Sunday January 15th. After worship she will be meeting with the council and congregation to share some guidance from the synod about building relationships with other congregations. We are planning to share a soup lunch on this day and a few members have offered to bring some soup in a crock pot. If you would be willing to bring one too, please speak with Pastor Mark.

Pastor Mark's Week Off

January 16—21

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). He will not respond to any non-emergency pastoral care calls on those days.

Blood Drive

Thursday, January 26, 2023



The Blood Drive will be in the Fellowship Hall at Faith Lutheran Church from 11:30 am to 5:00 pm. To **schedule your appointment**, call **800-733-2767** or sign up online at redcrossblood.org, using sponsor code: [faithlutheranalbany](http://faithlutheranalbany.org). Per OHA, as a health care operation, masks are required.

Church Office Hours

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

Church Office will be closed Monday, January 2nd

Holy Land Trip

November 2023

Nick Doversberger will be leading a group on a [Holy Land Pilgrimage](http://www.holylandpilgrimage.com) in November 2023. You can read more about it in the Oregon Synod Newsletter (subscribe to the newsletter at <http://oregonsynod.org>) or contact Nick Doversberger directly for more information, either by email at ndoversb@gmail.com or by phone at 503-956-4666.

Quilting and TOMs

Wednesdays @ 9am



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

Mary Martha Circle



This is a Bible Study for women. We meet on the **second Tuesday of each month @ 1:00pm 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

Food Collection for F.I.S.H. of Albany

We are collecting non-perishable food items FISH of Albany. Donations can be placed in one of the baskets in the parking lot entry-way.

****Please check expiration date markings**

F.I.S.H. cannot accept foods past their marked expiration dates.

Prayer Chain: We are asking those who are part of the prayer chain to lift up the concerns of Faith Lutheran congregants on a weekly basis and to pray for other concerns as they are shared. This can be as simple as taking a few seconds to ask God to be with those listed, lifting each one up by name. 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**



Co-Dependence Anonymous

Fridays @ 5:30pm



Co-dependence Anonymous (CoDA) is a twelve step fellowship of men and women whose common purpose is to develop healthy relationships. The only requirement for membership is a desire for healthy and loving relationships.

For further information contact Denice R. at (541) 974-5060

New Flower Chart

A new year calls for a new Flower Chart! Please take a minute and sign up to provide flowers for a week or two in the new year.



A Prayer for Every Day

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me, the joy of Thy salvation
And renew a right spirit within me. Amen

Worship Leaders Team 2023

January	1	8	15	22	29
Assisting Ministers	Janice	Ellen	Diane	Jeff	Shirley
	Terry				
Altar Prep	Denice	Pam	Aabergs	Fleishers	Denice
Ushers	Dick	Wally	Kim	Terry	Jon
Sound Technicians	Jon	Gordy	Jon	John	Terry

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/>



January Worship Schedule

January 1	10:30am Worship & Livestreaming
January 8	10:30am Worship & Livestreaming
January 15	10:30am Worship & Livestreaming
January 22	10:30am Worship & Livestreaming
January 29	10:30am Worship & Livestreaming

Prayer List

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

Tim B.	Chiera Family	Olivia Hunter
Brenda Carroll	Izzy Covalt	Nicholas Glass
Sandy Hina	Garrett Baarsch	Norma Messman
Robert Jon	Stephanie Bauthman	Nancy Goodwin
Linda Gail Voet	Carl Wogomon	Karen Glenn
Melba Wright	John Busher	Peggy Preston
Brandon Crawford	Heather	Jeanette Thorpe
Noah Holman	Julie Shaw	Elaine Wogomon
Pat Norby	Lee Horst	Scot Stockwell
Gigi Douglas	Margaret Rowland	Karen Hoover

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 New Year's Prayer

Dear God, Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good and the hard things that have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every day.

We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. We ask for your wisdom, strength, and power to be constantly present within us. We pray you would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead.

We pray for your protection over our families and friends. We ask for your hand to cover us and be a barrier to surround us. We pray that you would give us discernment and insight to understand your will, hear your voice, and know your ways. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.



January

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Pastor Mark Off 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming	2 Church Office Closed Pastor Mark Off	3	4 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs	5 2:00pm Music & Worship Planning	6 9:00am String Therapy 10:00am Reports to Council Due	7
8 Installation of Council 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming 11:45am - 2:00pm Fellowship Luncheon	9 12:30pm - 3:00pm Modern Travelers 1:00pm Bible Study Group 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10 1:00pm Mary Martha Circle 6:15pm Theology Pub @ The Barn	11 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs 7:00pm Council Meeting	12	13 9:00am String Therapy	14
15 Council Retreat - Bishop Laurie's Visitation 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming	16 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17	18 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs	19	20 8:00am Newsletter Deadline 9:00am String Therapy	21 9:00am Circle of Friends (Fellowship Hall)
22 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming 11:15am Fellowship Meeting	23 1:00pm Bible Study Group 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24	25 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs	26 11:30am - 5:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive	27 9:00am String Therapy	28
29 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming 2:00pm The Chosen: Season 2	30 1:00pm Bible Study Group 7:00pm Boy Scouts	31				





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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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