

FAITH at WORK

October 2024

Dear People of God at Faith Lutheran Church,
May God's grace carry you in the peace of Christ Jesus.

25 September 2024

This is a progress report, recapping the good work that is being done by you, by those members able to stay after worship to discern God's call to Faith Lutheran Church (FLC). The work of churches in transition is to answer Three Key Questions: Who are you? Who is your neighbor? And what is God calling you to be and do? These are answered looking at the congregation's history, leadership, connections, and mission, and from all that to discern the future path.

Here's what has been done at Faith since May:

May

Began to look at FLC's history, mission and connections as well as Oregon, US and world history that impacted FLC's ministry since 1950;

June

We remembered leaders, both clergy and laity, who have guided and led FLC through a variety of eras and decades of mission and connections (relationships); what the qualities of a good leader are; how FLC connected in the neighborhood and community;

July

The work explored who FLC has been in the past and who you are at this time; we talked about our definitions of "church" and "mission" and looked at the Mission Statement you crafted some time ago: Living in God's grace, we share the love of Jesus with all. And we wondered together what God's invitation to FLC for the future. Included in that work was a Congregational Life Cycle graphic that showed a bell curve and what it would take to redefine, redevelop or enter into re-birth. All of which takes discernment and consensus going forward. No decisions were made at that time, as we did not discuss or brainstorm the possibilities;

August

The focus was on FLC's Core Values for this time. This is about answering the Key Questions of Identity—Who Are You, FLC? In order to answer that question, we needed to identify what is at the heart of who you are right now. The outcome of those discussions are these four values are core to who FLC is today: A community of Caring, Stewardship, Technology, and Prayer. Knowing who you are right now will assist in discerning the future;

September

Listening to the Holy Spirit, we began to brainstorm what possibilities could be Faith's future path. NO DECISIONS WERE MADE. We shared what was on our hearts. Some of that includes some grief. Anticipating change invites grief over the what may take place. We have NOT talked through any of these options. We are sitting with this list to let the Holy Spirit guide the process.

Faith Lutheran Church

930 Queen Ave SW, Albany OR 97321

email: faithalbany@proaxis.com

website: www.faithalbany.org

Phone: (541) 928-7660



Here are the options lifted up by members of Faith on September 15:

- Join Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (this could be two different things: share pastor or merge—neither have been vetted with Good Shepherd)
- Sell the property (and find new worship space?)
- Develop the church property (Community Center for Assistance, Adult Day Care, Assisted Living, Low-Income Housing, or razing the buildings for new construction);
- Rent out space to generate more income
- Find a new Pre-school tenant

Other possibilities for consideration, which were not brought up nor discussed, are:

- Holy Closure-Legacy (close FLC and sell the property and disburse the assets)
- Continue as is and dwindle away, unable to afford anything more than guest pastors on Sundays, FLC taking care of everything else
- Nesting (Selling the property, going together to another ELCA congregation for worship for a period of time, then attending to another ELCA congregation for a period of time, etc. but never becoming members at any)

Now is the time to enter into communal discernment. Discernment is about listening, to the Holy Spirit's whispers, to each other, to consider outcomes, to ponder possibilities, and to be courageous in vision. It is praying to understand God's desires from and for FLC. We will always want to have God's will match ours. However, in these days we must listen for God's will, whatever will bring forth the good news, that shares the love of Jesus with all.

The decision-making process must be inclusive and prayerful. The Council will come with a proposal (when?) which has been lifted up by our deliberations. There will be some time to further discuss, and then a congregation meeting will be called for a certain date (TBD) and then a congregation vote can take place.

I have heard from some of you that you are tired, and want to make a decision soon. You have been doing good and necessary work in this transition. Please make plans to attend the October 13 Potluck, as we will dive into the above list of options, look at pros and cons, and maybe recommend to Council what to do next. They will next meet October 14. Continue to pray about God's invitation for the future.

If you have questions or concerns, please call or email me or Mary Sabatka-Gamet, Council Secretary.

In Christ Jesus, with hope and peace,

Pr Dorothy Nielsen
541-377-1354

pr.dorothy.2nd@gmail.com

Mary Sabatka-Gamet
541-905-5857

mssabatka@yahoo.com





HARVEST FESTIVAL & QUILT SHOW

Faith Lutheran Church
930 Queen Avenue SW, Albany, OR

OCTOBER 18 & 19

9:00am—4:00pm

Please join us as you browse our amazing selection of

Homespun Crafts
Delicious Baked Goods
&
Handmade Quilts

Lunch Will Be Served

11:00am—1:30pm

Hearty Chicken Vegetable Soup with Bread,
Coffee or Tea, and Homemade Pie

An October Garden

In my Autumn garden I was fain
To mourn among my scattered roses;
Alas for that last rosebud which uncloses
To Autumn's languid sun and rain
When all the world is on the wane!
Which has not felt the sweet constraint of June,
Nor heard the nightingale in tune.

Broad-faced asters by my garden walk,
You are but coarse compared with roses:
More choice, more dear that rosebud which uncloses,
Faint-scented, pinched, upon its stalk,
That least and last which cold winds balk;
A rose it is though least and last of all,
A rose to me though at the fall.

By Christina Rossetti



Faith Lutheran Church		2024
STAFF		
Interim Pastor	Pastor Dorthy Nielsen	
Office Manager	Carol Armstrong	
Organist/Pianist	Cheryl Blum	
Custodian	Hart's Janitorial	
CHURCH COUNCIL		
President	Gordy Gamet	
Vice President	Terry Virnig	
Secretary	Mary Sabatka Gamet	
Treasurer	Janice Lee Virnig	
Financial Secretary	Alice Weber	
Education/Youth	Vacant	
Evangelism & Mission	Dick Olsen	
Fellowship & Social	Peggy Preston	
Property Management	Vacant	
Stewardship & Resources	Vacant	
Worship & Music	Vacant	
Mission Endowment	Carol Olufson	



Financials as of: September 27, 2024

Undesignated Income: \$3,786.97

Budgeted Undesignated Income: \$6,720.83

Net Undesignated Income: (\$2,933.86)

Total Expenses: \$9,103.23

Total Net Income: (\$272.26)

Church Announcements and Events

5

Gods Work, Our Hands Service Project—9:00am to Noon Saturday, October 12

This year we are joining with the members of Good Shepherd Lutheran for our annual service project to benefit Luther House in Corvallis. The work that we will be doing is mostly general maintenance - such as painting, cleaning, gardening, but there will be something to do for anyone that shows up regardless of their abilities. Coffee and Donuts will be served at break time and lunch will be served at noon. You will need to park at Grace Lutheran Church and walk over to Luther House. If you have questions, call Lutherhouse at 541-753-5213 or email at lhouse@peak.org. The office is open Tues, Wed, and Thurs from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

Transition Work for October Sunday, October 13

Potluck —11:45am Please sign-up to bring some food to share.

Transition Work: Envisioning the Future—12:15pm Our work will focus on envisioning what the future of Faith Lutheran might look like and what God is calling us to do.

Bingo & More! —3:00pm Sunday, October 20

Join us for an afternoon of fun & games! Bring a non-perishable food item for admission. Popcorn and Lemonade will be provided.

Shared Worship with Good Shepherd Lutheran—10:30am Sunday, October 27

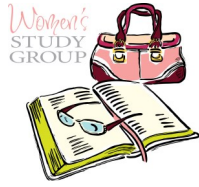
Faith Lutheran Church will host a worship service with our friends from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for Reformation Sunday on October 27. After worship, we will share a meal of Lasagna, Salad, & Garlic Bread provided by Gordy & Mary Sabatka Gamet. Please RSVP if you're planning to attend—a sign up sheet is available in the Fireside Room.

Quilting and TOPs 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.



TOPs (stands for The Old People, though age is 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 TOPs will always welcome some help.



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.

Volunteer Driver Needed!

October 25 or 26

A driver is needed to transport quilts and school kits to Beaverton, OR to the Lutheran World Relief Fall In-Gathering. If you are able to help with this, please contact Peggy Preston at 541-926-2697.

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 entryway.

*** Please check expiration date markings -FISH cannot accept foods past their marked expiration dates.*

Praise to God immortal praise, for the love that crowns our days! Bounteous source of every joy; praise let men our tongues employ! All to thee, our God, we owe; source from whom all blessings flow.



Covid-19 Update

The pandemic may be over, but Covid-19 continues to circulate among the population and still poses a threat to the lives of our loved ones. Please be vigilant in protecting yourself and others by observing a few simple rules:

- If you are ill, please stay home
- Wash your hands often
- If you need to cough, please cover your mouth and nose.
- If you wish to wear a mask to protect yourself or others, please feel free to wear one.
- If you see someone wearing a mask, please respect their right to wear one.

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: pegprestonn@aol.com



Worship Leaders Team 2024				
October	6	13	20	27
Assisting Ministers	Carol O.	Janice	Shirley	George
Altar Prep	Elaine	George	Elaine	George
Ushers	Shirley	Dick	Terry	Dick
Sound Technicians	John	Terry	Gordy	John

**October 2024 Worship Schedule**

October 6 10:30am Worship
 October 13 10:30am Worship
 October 20 10:30am Worship
 October 27 10:30am Worship



October

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring 4:00pm - 7:30pm Family Tree Nursery- Parent Ed. Class	2 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOPs	3 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	4 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy 3:00pm - 5:00pm Ruth Glance - Memorial Service	5 2:00pm - 5:00pm Rachel Olsen - Celebration of Life
6 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming	7 12:30pm - 3:00pm Modern Travelers 7:00pm Boy Scouts	8 1:30pm Mary Martha Circle 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring 4:00pm - 7:30pm Family Tree Nursery- Parent Ed. Class	9 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOPs	10 Janitorial Service 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	11 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy 1:30pm - 3:30pm 20th Century Book Club	12
13 Blessing of the Quilts 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming	14 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Council Meeting	15 1:00pm - 3:00pm D.A.R. Monthly Meeting 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring 4:00pm - 7:30pm Family Tree Nursery- Parent Ed. Class	16 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOPs	17 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	18 9:00am - 4:00pm Quilt & Craft Show 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	19 9:00am - 4:00pm Quilt & Craft Show 9:30am - 10:30pm Scouts-District Meeting
20 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming 3:00pm Bingo & More!	21 7:00pm Boy Scouts	22 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring 4:00pm - 7:30pm Family Tree Nursery- Parent Ed. Class	23 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOPs	24 Janitorial Service 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	25 LWR Ingathering- Quilts to be Transported 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	26 LWR Ingathering- Quilts to be Transported
27 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming 11:15am Fellowship Meeting	28 7:00pm Boy Scouts	29 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring 3:30pm - 8:00pm Private Party Rental 4:00pm - 7:30pm Family Tree Nursery- Parent Ed. Class	30 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOPs	31 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group		

Prayer List

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

Tim Berg	Stephanie Bauthman	John Villani
Brenda Carroll	John Busher	Vanessa Munro
Sandy Hina	Julie Shaw	Jim Preston
Robert Jon	Olivia Hunter	Virginia
Linda Gail Voet	Nicholas Glass	Gabriel
Noah Holman	Karen Hoover	Dave Glass
Gigi Douglas	Chuck	Peggy Preston
Garrett Baarsch	Carol Olufson	Dick Dodge

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND:

Izzy Covalt, Connie Griffis, Margaret Rowland, Sangsau Tran & Melba Wright

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

Friends and Family of Ruth Glace

Friends and Family of Rose Mary Aaberg

Family and Friends of Rachel Olsen

Kristen and Jason Foster on the passing of their son, Emmett



A Prayer for Every Day

Almighty and Everlasting God, thank You that your Spirit is within me. Lord, fill me anew with your Holy Spirit. Grant me the fortitude to live by the Spirit and to mark my life by a dependence on You. Even though these times deplete my energy and drain my resolve, You restore my soul by the indwelling of Your Spirit. Thank You that You have sent your Spirit and that this is a reason for my joy. In Jesus' name, amen.



**Faith Lutheran
Church**

**930 Queen Ave
SW
Albany Oregon
97321**

541-928-7660

faithalbany.org

**faithalbany@
proaxis.com**

Faith at Work

2024

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Faith Lutheran Church
930 Queen Ave SW
Albany, OR 97321