

FAITH at WORK

April 2025

Dear People of God at Faith Lutheran Church,

Lenten greetings to you, in the name of our crucified and risen Lord Jesus.

We are halfway through the Lenten journey. We began in the wilderness with Jesus, will go to Jerusalem with him, and to his crucifixion, and then to his amazing resurrection three days later. The life of this Holy One is, for many of us, the core of our faith.

God left the comforts of Heaven to run down to earth to welcome us. We are called children of God, thanks to Jesus' life, death and resurrection. All through the scriptures we hear how God keeps calling out to us in love, reaching for us, longing for us to turn around and see how beloved we are. This love God has for all of creation, for us, is based in a holy relationship in which God is the one doing the work. Because we didn't know how to turn toward God, God took on flesh and blood in order to connect with us and welcome us into God's family.

How do we respond to this amazing love? Sometimes we do well, sometimes we mess up. We do our best to respond to this love by loving others. Faith is not about success or prosperity. It is all about the relationship we are in with God, and how that affects our daily life and our call to follow Jesus.

So often we hold on to the things that do not give life, whether they are possession, wealth, knowledge, or some other things. What resurrects us from the death that sin brings is God's grace. Love made alive in Christ Jesus. When that is at the core of who we are, we are better able to glimpse our identity and calling. And hopefully it becomes easier to let go of what does not give life. Resurrection is all about life, new life. Not the past being resurrected, but new life, new hope, new dreams.

Holy Week will soon be upon us. Things are going to be different this Holy Week. Faith will have Palm-Passion Sunday on April 13th. The Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be at Good Shepherd, as I will be working under a new contract with Faith (more on that below) and will not lead those services. If you need a ride because of not driving in the dark, please make plans with someone who does drive in the darkness. Then on Easter Sunday, April 20, we will be together for worship at Faith sanctuary. Watch the calendar for the information.

On March 23, God's people at Good Shepherd learned about the conversations about both congregations moving toward blending and came to a consensus to continue that work. We are calling it "Blending for Mission." Pr Cindy from Good Shepherd and I have sketched out a process to use in the coming months. This will take time and lots of participation on everyone's part.

Faith Lutheran Church

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Some questions around assets keeps coming up. Let's be clear: assets do NOT drive this process. MISSION drives this process. Once the blending of the congregations has happened, many months from now, then will be the time to go over assets. Resurrection is about new life, and we won't be able to foresee how things will develop. So put those concerns and questions aside. NOW is the time for discovering God's mission for the two ELCA congregations in Albany. We'll spend time learning about each other's history, core values, heart for following Jesus, and discovering new opportunities to join in mission for the sake of the good news of Jesus Christ.

This Easter, let the love of God be our guide and inspiration toward resurrection. Let our love for each other accompany us on this journey of hope and mission.

The peace of Christ is with us,

Pr Dorothy+

The New Contract for Faith Lutheran Church and Transition Pastor Dorothy

The Faith Council has agreed and signed a new contract with Pr Dorothy. The original contract ends March 31, 2025. The new contract begins April 1, 2025 on a month-to-month basis for 2025, and includes the following:

The Transition Pastor will:

- A. Preside at worship and administer the sacraments according to the practice of the ELCA three Sundays per month during the contracted period.
- B. Assist staff to prepare for worship.
- C. Make pastoral visitations, support the lay-led pastoral care team and if needed, preside at funeral or memorial services.
- D. Pray for the congregation and its members.
- E. Be responsible for appropriate records...
- F. Write an article for the monthly newsletter.
- G. Co-facilitate the Blending for Mission Process with the pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran.
- H. Submit work hours in a timely manner to the Treasurer per monthly contract.

The Congregation will:

- A. Commit itself to the gospel by faithful participation in worship, learning, and fellowship, and commit to the Blending for Mission Process with Good Shepherd Lutheran.
- B. Receive the Transition Pastor as a messenger of Jesus Christ, sent by God to serve people with the Gospel of hope and salvation.
- C. Pray for the Transition Pastor, striving to live together in the peace and unity of Christ, and pray for the Blending for Mission Process and leaders in this time of discernment.
- D. Honor the leadership of the Transition Pastor in presiding at all rites of the Church.
- E. Compensate the Transition Pastor in the following ways:
 - 1. Pay \$200 per Sunday for worship prep and leadership for three Sundays per month.
 - 2. An hourly rate of \$75 for pre-planned meetings (Council, transition work with GSLC), worship planning, newsletter articles, pastoral care support and visitation, and mileage reimbursement.

F. For Emergency Pastoral Care needs, FLC will contract with _____ for \$___ per emergency

G. On Sundays the Transition Pastor is not preaching and presiding, Faith Lutheran Church will compensate any Supply Pastors on additional Sundays per Synod Supply Preaching Guidelines, or worship at Good Shepherd.

The Oregon Synod will continue to support and encourage the Transition Pastor and Faith Lutheran during this process with Good Shepherd and discernment of future ministry and mission.

Practically, this means that I will be with you three Sundays a month, however I will not be holding office hours at Queens and Elm. I will not be able to attend to emergency hospital/health crises due to living a one hour driving distance, and so contracting with Pr Cindy or some other pastor will be for those local emergency needs. I will schedule visits for when I am in Albany.

You can still reach me by phone (541-377-1354) or email (pr.dorthy.2nd@gmail.com) if you need to chat. If you have questions for Council, call President Gordy Gamet.

We continue to walk together in this time of transition into new life.

In Christ, with hope,
Pr Dorthy+



From Church Council

Hello Brothers and Sisters of Faith,

Welcome to April!! Things are starting to bloom, and I am hearing the birds singing away in the mornings.

We have a new contract with Pastor Dorthy moving forward on a month-to-month basis. She will be preaching 3 Sundays a month and will contribute to the newsletter and attend council meetings and do visitations when she is in town. She won't have set office hours, but you can reach out to her if you have a need. I am working on getting a local Pastor set up for emergency needs.

As you have heard we are moving along with working with Good Shepard, they had a vote last Sunday and voted to continue working with us. You will hear more about this as we progress along, there will be a spot in the bulletin and the newsletter about what is going on. Currently there is not a lot more to report other than what we have mentioned in the last couple of weeks. Let me know if you have questions.

We are going to have Spring Clean-up Day around the Church on Saturday April 5. If you can come and help that would be great.

Work on our Centennial celebration in August is continuing. Jan Wetzel and Nancy George have stepped up to co-chair the event for us, thank you ladies. It will probably be a 2-day celebration and the proceeds from the up coming rummage sale are going towards the event.

Blessings,

Gordy Gamet
FLC Council President

Blending for Mission

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Welcome to our new space to share information about the blending of FLC and GSLC. This column will be used to answer questions, provide insight, and keep everyone informed of the progress of this project.

In March 2025, the FLC and GSLC councils met together to go over the draft memorandum of understanding for merging/blending our congregations. GSLC congregation voted on March 23 in support of these efforts. In April there will be two 3-person 'listening' teams selected and by June those teams will get some training, both congregations will agree to the MOU, and we hit the road running!

Two items have come up repeatedly that need to be addressed.

1. Our Endowment Fund is protected by its charter and will remain to be managed by a committee, and it still has to follow the conditions of the charter. That money will not be used to pay off the mortgage at GSLC.
2. There is no plan to sell either church at this point in the process. What happens with the buildings will be decided as we determine what God is telling us to do. Our mission will guide the decisions.

—Submitted by Mary Sabatka Gamet

Lenten Mid-Week Worship Schedule

Lenten Worship & Soup

Wednesdays, April 2 & 9

Worship services will be held on Wednesdays for Ash Wednesday and each of the five weeks of Lent. A mid-day service at Faith Lutheran Church will accommodate those who prefer not to drive after dark, while a service later in the day at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will be available for those who prefer an evening service. These services are preceded by a meal before the service begins.

Faith Lutheran Church

11:30am Soup Luncheon

12:00pm Lenten Worship Service

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

5:30pm Soup Supper

6:30pm Lenten Worship Service

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday—April 13

Worship at Faith Lutheran Church

10:30am

Maundy Thursday—April 17

Dinner Church at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

6:30pm

Good Friday—April 18

Tenebrae Service at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

6:30pm

Easter Sunday—April 20

Easter Breakfast

9:00am

Worship at Faith Lutheran Church

10:30am

An April Adoration

Sang the sun rise on an amber morn —
 'Earth, be glad! An April day is born.
 'Winter's done, and April's in the skies,
 Earth, look up with laughter in your eyes!

Putting off her dumb dismay of snow,
 Earth bade all her unseen children grow.
 Then the sound of growing in the air
 Rose to God a liturgy of prayer;

And the thronged succession of the days
 Uttered up to God a psalm of praise.

Laughed the running sap in every vein,
 Laughed the running flurries of warm rain,

Laughed the life in every wandering root,
 Laughed the tingling cells of bud and shoot.

God in all the concord of their mirth
 Heard the adoration-song of Earth.

—Sir Charles George Douglas Roberts



Faith Lutheran Church		2025
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	Terry Virnig (Acting)	
Stewardship & Resources	Vacant	
Worship & Music	George Hunt	
Mission Endowment	Carol Olufson	



Financials as of: 3/25/25.

Undesignated Income: \$4,104.97

Budgeted Undesignated Income: \$5,416.66

Net Undesignated Income: (\$1,311.69)

Total Expenses: \$10,089.61

Total Net Income: (2,244.64)

Church Announcements and Events

6

Bible Study: Book of Acts: The Journey
12:00pm or 6:30pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran

Thursdays, April 3 & 10

During the Lenten season, Pastor Cindy Robles will be leading a Bible Study called **Always Moving**. Readings will be from the book of Acts. Two classes will be offered, one in the afternoon & one in the evening—Choose the one that best suits your needs.

Men's Breakfast—8:30am

Tuesdays, Ongoing

Men's group meets for breakfast every Tuesday at 8:30am at either Sweetwaters Restaurant or Brick & Mortar Restaurant (alternating weeks). All men are welcome!

April 1, April 15 & April 29 at Sweetwaters

—

April 8 & April 22 at Brick & Mortar

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 is 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



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.

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.***



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.



Rummage Sale & Quilt Show

Faith Lutheran Church

930 SW Queen Street
Albany, Oregon

Friday—April 25 & Saturday—April 26
8:00am-4:00pm 8:00am-3:00pm

- Clothing
- Kitchen Items
- Sports Gear
- Home Décor
- Office Items
- Linens
- Something for Everyone!
- Multiple Family & Estate Sale Contributions!

Questions? Contact Peggy at 541/ 926-2697 or Suzanne at 541/928-2173



Worship Leaders Team 2025				
April	6	13	20	27
Assisting Ministers	Janice	George	Shirley	Carol O.
Altar Prep	George	Jon A.	George	Jon A.
Ushers	Dick	Dick	Dick	Dick
Sound Technicians	Terry	Gordy	Jon A.	John B.

Spring Clean-Up Day at Faith—9am to 12pm

Saturday, April 5

Mark your calendars to come help on our Spring Clean-Up day! There are many jobs to be done both indoors and outdoors—something for everyone's ability. See you there!



Share your Lilies to decorate the church for Easter Worship. Lilies can be brought in the week leading up to Easter. We like them to look fresh on Easter Sunday so 4/19 - 4/20 is the best time to drop them by.

April 2025 Worship Schedule



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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	2 9:00am Quilters & TOPs 11:30am Luncheon & Lenten Worship at FLC 5:30pm Soup Supper & Lenten Worship at GSL	3 12:00pm Bible Study: Book of Acts - The Journey at GSL 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group 6:30pm Bible Study: Book of Acts - The Journey at GSL	4 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	5 9:00am Church Clean-Up Day
6 Blessing of the Quilts 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming	7 7:00pm Boy Scouts	8 1:30pm Mary Martha Circle 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	9 9:00am Quilters & TOPs 11:30am Luncheon & Lenten Worship at FLC 5:30pm Soup Supper & Lenten Worship at GSL 6:30pm - 8:00pm AEC	10 Janitorial Service 12:00pm Bible Study: Book of Acts - The Journey at GSL 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group 6:30pm Bible Study: Book of Acts - The Journey at GSL	11 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy 1:30pm - 3:30pm 20th Century Book Club	12
13 Palm Sunday 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming 3:00pm - 7:00pm AEC	14 12:30pm - 3:00pm Modern Travelers 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Council Meeting	15 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	16 9:00am Quilters & TOPs	17 Maundy Thursday 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group 6:30pm Dinner Church at GSL	18 Good Friday 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy 6:30pm Tenebrae Service at GSL	19 9:00am Circle of Friends (Fellowship Hall)
20 Easter 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming 3:00pm Bingo & More - ??	21 Church Office Closed 9:00am - 12:00pm Rummage Sale Setup 7:00pm Boy Scouts	22 9:00am - 12:00pm Rummage Sale Setup 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	23 9:00am Quilters & TOPs 9:00am - 12:00pm Rummage Sale Setup 6:30pm - 8:00pm AEC	24 9:00am - 12:00pm Rummage Sale Setup 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	25 9:00am - 4:00pm Annual Rummage Sale 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	26 9:00am - 4:00pm Annual Rummage Sale
27 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming 11:15am Fellowship Meeting 3:00pm - 7:00pm AEC	28 7:00pm Boy Scouts	29 Janitorial Service (Moved Due to Rummage Sale) 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	30 9:00am Quilters & TOPs			

Prayer List

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

Tim Berg	Olivia Hunter	Frank Perry
Brenda Carroll	Nicholas Glass	David
Sandy Hina	Karen Hoover	Connie Griffis
Linda Gail Voet	Chuck	Margaret Rowland
Noah Holman	Carol Olufson	Mitch Mueller
Gigi Douglas	Vanessa Munro	Melba Wright
Stephanie Bauthman	Jim Preston	Karen Glenn
John Busher	Virginia	Dawn Gregg
Julie Shaw	Gabriel	

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND:

Sangsau Tran

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

Family and Friends of Izzy Covalt

A Prayer for Every Day



Almighty and Everlasting God, thank You that your Spirit is within me. Grant me the fortitude to live by the Spirit and to mark my life by a dependence on You.

Thank you for the gift of Jesus' resurrection, a symbol of hope and new beginnings. May we live our lives in gratitude and joy, reflecting your love to all those around us. In Jesus' name, amen.



Fill in the blanks with the tiny creatures mentioned in each verse (all NIV). Then search for those words in the puzzle below.

Proverbs 6:6

Psalms 78:45

Matthew 23:24

Judges 14:8b

Acts 12:23

Leviticus 11:22

Leviticus 11:22

Deuteronomy 7:20

Exodus 16:20

1 Samuel 24:14

Isaiah 50:9

Isaiah 59:5

Leviticus 11:22

Leviticus 11:22



M	O	T	H	S	G	N	A	T	B	H
A	N	T	A	L	L	C	H	P	E	O
G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R
G	F	C	R	I	C	K	E	T	S	N
O	L	S	P	I	D	E	R	S	B	E
T	E	C	L	O	C	U	S	T	D	T
S	A	E	F	K	A	T	Y	D	I	D
G	F	L	I	E	S	W	O	R	M	S





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Faith at Work

2025

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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