

FAITH at WORK

March 2023

Sisters and brothers –

We continue in the wilderness of Lent.

Wilderness is the site of significant parts of the Bible. It is where Hagar goes with Ishmael, driven away, encounters an angel and calls the LORD: the one who sees (Genesis 16). It is where Moses encounters God in the burning bush, hearing that I AM WHO I AM (Exodus 3). It is where the children of Israel wander for forty years (Exodus 20 – Deuteronomy). The wilderness is the place where Elijah is fed (1st Kings 19), where God's voice shakes the creation (Psalm 29) and where the desert shall rejoice and blossom (Isaiah 35 & 41). The wilderness is a place where God told Jeremiah that Jerusalem was his bride (Jeremiah 2). In the wilderness, John the Baptist proclaimed Jesus and baptized him. In the wilderness Jesus was tempted.

Explicitly and implicitly, the wilderness is the location for crucial elements of scripture. It is a place where we are laid bare, where anything that we could try to place between us and God is stripped away. The wilderness is the place where God is made known.

Much of human history we have tried to tame the wilderness, to civilize it, to bend it to our own designs. And yet human projects fall short: reservoirs run dry, forest catch ablaze, temperatures rise. The wilderness, in the Scriptures and now remind us of our shortfalls, that when we aspire to be like God that we will always fall short.



Faith Lutheran Church

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- Prayer needs

But the wilderness is also where all the dross of this world falls away. In the wilderness, listening to the whispers of the Spirit, we are reminded that God is enough. In the wilderness of our life, when we let go, we see with eyes of faith the one who resisted temptation, the one who was baptized in the Jordan, the one who sets us free.

The wilderness calls us to follow the God who sees us, in the light and in the dark, who knows our inmost thoughts, who hears the prayers of our hearts. In the wilderness, God is the one voice crying out: "I know you, you are mine, you are loved." God calls us from the noise and clutter of this world to follow Jesus, who was baptized in the wilderness. Let us follow where our savior leads.

Pastor Mark

Poem on Wilderness

THE WILDERNESS IS SOMEWHERE
WE'VE BEEN BEFORE

I'm not the first. That's what I tell myself when I wake up in the wilderness— Big sky, worried heart, wondering which way to start. I have been here before. We have been here before. For as long as there has been creation, There has been wilderness.

First it was an endless void, Until God and God's paintbrush painted the sky gold. And then it was all that lies east of Eden, Which is everywhere that our story unfolds.

So like a child memorizing their home address, You'd think I'd learn my way out of this wilderness. But like the Israelites who wandered for forty plus years, I think I'll spend most of my day to day here. For the wilderness is everywhere that I start to grow. Cracks in the sidewalk, daisies take hold. And the wilderness is every single place of unknown, Or when shame and fear move into my home.

And the wilderness is where dusty feet tread, Familiar with the truth that we have days left.

So where is God, you ask?

God is in the big sky and in my worried heart. God is the sidewalk cracks where new life starts. God is in the realization that I am not the first. So may we take these limited days left And remember that we've been here before— God and I and this untamed world. God and the Israelites and the gathered assembly. God and the horizon and the new day beginning.

Written In March

The cock is crowing,
 The stream is flowing,
 The small birds twitter,
 The lake doth glitter
 The green field sleeps in the sun;
 The oldest and youngest
 Are at work with the strongest;
 The cattle are grazing,
 Their heads never raising;
 There are forty feeding like one!

Like an army defeated
 The snow hath retreated,
 And now doth fare ill
 On the top of the bare hill;
 The plowboy is whooping- anon-anon:
 There's joy in the mountains;
 There's life in the fountains;
 Small clouds are sailing,
 Blue sky prevailing;
 The rain is over and gone!

—William Wordsworth



Faith Lutheran Church		2023
STAFF		
Pastor	Mark Bringman	
Office Manager	Carol Armstrong	
Organist/Pianist	Cheryl Blum	
Custodian	Vacant	
CHURCH COUNCIL		
President	Terry Virnig	
Vice President	Bob Buswell	
Secretary	Mary Sabatka Gamet	
Treasurer	Janice Lee Virnig	
Financial Secretary	Alice Weber	
Education/Youth	Vacant	
Evangelism & Mission	Dick Olsen	
Fellowship & Social	Denice Rickard	
Property Management	Jon Aaberg	
Stewardship & Resources	Wally Oster	
Worship & Music	Diane Buswell	
Mission Endowment	Carol Olufson	



Undesignated Income: \$4,662.23

Budgeted Undesignated Income: \$8,166.67

Net Undesignated Income: **(\$3,504.44)**

Total Expenses: \$7,870.38

Total Net Income: \$353.85

Church Announcements and Events

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Lenten Worship & Soup Supper

Wednesday, March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29

6:00pm Soup Supper

7:00pm Worship

For the Lenten season, we will again be taking turns hosting Wednesday dinner and worship services along with our friends at Good Shepherd Lutheran and Our Savior Lutheran. Each congregation will choose how they want to lead their worship service, reflecting their own traditions; ours will be the Holden evening prayer service on March 15. We hope you are able to join us. The schedule is shown below:

March 1 & 29 —Our Savior Lutheran, 3111 S Main Road, Lebanon OR 97355

March 8 & 22 —Good Shepherd Lutheran, 1910 34th Ave SE, Albany OR 97322

March 15 —Faith Lutheran Church, 930 Queen Ave SW, Albany OR 97321

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting—11:00am

March 5

Our constitution instructs Faith Lutheran Church to have two congregational meetings a year: the first one for 2023 is scheduled for February 26 to approve the Annual Report for 2022 and to elect voting members to attend the Synod Assembly. This meeting is usually brief and is an important part of our being in community together. Please plan to attend.

Monday Study Group—1:00pm

March 6, 13, 27

The focus of our March study is Ephesians. This is a hybrid study meaning that it 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.

Sunday Cinema: The Chosen (Season 2)—2:00pm

March 12

Join us in the sanctuary as we continue to watch this riveting series that depicts the life of Jesus and challenges us to consider what it means for us in the here and now.

Pastor Mark—Light Week for March

March 19 - 25

Pastor Mark will be leaving after worship on the 19th and will not be reachable during this time. If you have a pastor care concern, please contact Pastor Sarah Schaffner at 541 852 5637

Bishop Laurie's Visit—2:00pm**March 26**

Bishop Laurie was with us on January 15th at the request of the council, working with our congregation on next steps together. Bishop Laurie will be with us again on March 26th at 2 pm (the time may change, the date should not) as we continue our conversation.

Theology Pub @ The Barn—6:30pm**Tuesday, March 28**

Our theology pub this month is going to be back at The Barn at the end of the month. The plan is to meet outdoors—there are heaters outside and it should be a bit quieter than indoors.

We will continue to use the random discussion questions that we used in February. We had a good discussion and it seemed like a good fit for us.

American Red Cross Blood Drive—11:30am-5:00pm**Thursday, March 30**

Blood Drive



Faith Lutheran Church is hosting a Blood Drive on Thursday, March 30. To schedule your appointment, call 800-733-2767 OR sign up online at: redcrossblood.org using Sponsor code: faithlutheranalbany

Sanctified Art Devotional Book For Lent

This year we will be using "Wilderness" by Sanctified Art as our centering for the season of Lent. It includes materials that will be included in the bulletins, and a devotional booklet plus prayer cards for home use. If you would like to have a copy of the devotional materials but are unable to join us in person, please contact the church office to have them mailed to you.

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 you have able hands and a willing heart, the TOMs will always welcome some help.



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

This month we will be collecting the following items:

- 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
- Cling Wrap
- Tissues

Non-perishable food items are also welcome.

Donations can be placed in a basket located in the parking lot entryway.

A Special Thank You! Denice Rickard, Jon Aaberg, Wally Oster and Terry Virnig went the extra mile to make repairs and clean up a water leak in the library. Because of their efforts, no permanent damage was done. They are truly, jolly good fellows! Hip-Hip-Hooray!



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



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.

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: pegpreston@aol.com**



Church Office Hours

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

Worship Leaders Team 2023

March	5	12	15	19	26
Assisting Ministers	Ellen	Diane	Carol	Shirley	Jeff
Altar Prep	Elaine	Pam	Denice	Denice	Fleishers
Ushers	Wally	Dick	Kim	Elaine	Diane
Sound Technicians	Terry	Gordy	Terry	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/>



March Worship Schedule

March 5	10:30am Worship & Livestreaming
March 12	10:30am Worship & Livestreaming
March 15	7:00 pm Lenten Worship & Livestreaming
March 19	10:30am Worship & Livestreaming
March 26	10:30am Worship & Livestreaming

Prayer List

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*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	Nancy Goodwin
Robert Jon	Stephanie Bauthman	Karen Glenn
Linda Gail Voet	Carl Wogomon	Peggy Preston
Melba Wright	John Busher	Jeanette Thorpe
Brandon Crawford	Heather	Elaine Wogomon
Noah Holman	Julie Shaw	Scot Stockwell
Pat Norby	Lee Horst	Karen Hoover
Gigi Douglas	Margaret Rowland	

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

O Lord, You are the light that guides my feet.
You are the map that gives me direction.
You are the peace that makes me strong.
You are the leader whom I faithfully follow.
May your light illuminate my life and your
guidance bring direction. May I find inspiration in
your word and peace in my heart as I follow you.
Amen.



March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs	2	3 9:00am - 1:30pm String Therapy 10:00am Reports to Council Due 5:30pm CoDA	4
5 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming 11:00am Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting	6 7:00pm Boy Scouts	7	8 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs 7:00pm Council Meeting	9	10 9:00am - 1:30pm String Therapy 5:30pm CoDA	11
12 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming	13 12:30pm - 3:00pm Modern Travelers 7:00pm Boy Scouts	14 1:00pm Mary Martha Circle	15 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs	16	17 9:00am - 1:00pm String Therapy 1:00pm 20th Century Book Club 5:30pm CoDA	18 9:00am Circle of Friends (Peggy's Gazebo)
19 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming	20 Pastor Mark - Off 8:00am Newsletter Deadline 7:00pm Boy Scouts	21 Pastor Mark - Off	22 Pastor Mark - Off 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs	23 Pastor Mark - Off	24 Pastor Mark - Off 9:00am - 1:30pm String Therapy 5:30pm CoDA	25 Pastor Mark - Off
26 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming 11:15am Fellowship Meeting 2:00pm Bishop Laurie Visit	27 7:00pm Boy Scouts	28	29 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs	30 11:30am Red Cross Blood Drive	31 9:00am - 1:30pm String Therapy 5:30pm CoDA	





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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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