

# FAITH at WORK

April 2023

Brothers and Sisters,

Bishop Laurie Larson-Caesar visited with us on March 26th. She shared that we are in a liminal time, an in-between space. This is true of Faith Lutheran Church, of the ELCA and indeed of all religious bodies in this country. We are in a time of transition, which means honest conversations about where we are going.

The bishop shared four broad paths:

- A) Holy Closure - keeping doing as we have been for decades but recognize that the trend lines are down. No major changes are probably increasingly unsustainable. Bishop Laurie did speak of a congregation that closed but where the members intentionally joined one other local congregation, so that they would still have their community.
- B) Friendship - this is to share staff (usually a pastor, sometimes additionally office staff) to be able to afford a pastor full time and full coverage. Sometimes in friendship, congregations remain separate and in 'silos' other times...
- C) Partnership - congregations decide to share one building and worship space. There can be advantages (upkeep on just one building), of course for some people a specific space can be very meaningful.
- D) Radical Transformation - Bishop Laurie noted that this takes a lot of energy. Immanuel Lutheran in Woodburn is taking this course - selling their building, designing a community center and moving to a different location. This takes a LOT of work and needs to be community centered - a desire to engage with the community and the needs there.

Bishop Laurie and I listened to the reflections of the 16 members. We are not trying to steer the congregation one way or another - it is up to the community here to decide where they feel called. It is up to Faith Lutheran Church to decide what course of action you want to pursue.

However, noting the elephant in the room, if it's hold the course, I think we are heading towards Holy Closure. If our vision for the future is merely a return to the past, without a sense of how we will make that happen, then we are fooling ourselves.

As a community, Faith Lutheran Church needs to determine what course of action they wish to pursue. We need to do it together - unified as the body of Christ. If we complain, bicker and pick at each other, that heads towards Holy Closure too - only quicker. Instead, we need to listen to each other, make honest assessment of where the Holy Spirit is leading us.



## Faith Lutheran Church

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We are going to have listening sessions - a time for a person/community who has participated in each of these to come down and talk to us. We need to talk together - especially to the council about what course we want to pursue.

And we do all of this trusting in the faithfulness of Jesus. For He is faithful and will stand by us.

Our council members are Jon Aaberg, myself, Bob & Diane Buswell, Dick Olsen, Wally Oster, Denice Rickard, Mary Sabatka Gamet, Janice & Terry Virnig, and Alice Weber. We are the people called by the congregation to lead. Talk to any of us, join our meetings and know that we are working hard on this.

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Mark

## Mark Your Calendar! Special Music by IJenNeh

Sunday, May 7

Lasana Kanneh will be leading our music on May 7th at worship (10:30 am). As a refugee from war, he has a remarkable story and tremendous musical talent. Please join us this day as we hear how the Holy Spirit moves through him.

You can find some of his music here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/IJenNeh>

**From his biography:** Lasana Kanneh suffered much in his native homeland of Liberia. He was born blind and ostracized by his community for this disability. He was eventually abandoned at the school for the blind in Monrovia. God intervened and an evangelist took him home and preached the good news to him. Due to his Christian conversion, he became a refugee. He escaped war, persecution, poverty, abuse and personal failure to bring you these beautiful songs of faith, hope, and restoration.

*1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

## Helping Those Without Shelter—6:00pm

Wednesday, May 17

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
1910 34<sup>th</sup> Ave SE Albany OR 97322

### 6pm Dinner, 7pm Meeting with Ministry Partners

At our recent ministerium\* meeting, fellow pastors spoke about encountering people who were experiencing houseless-ness. In particular some of us spoke about some of the local ministries that work with those looking for shelter, that it would be good to hear about what they do.

We wanted to organize an evening where we people could come to eat, share fellowship and hear from local agencies about what they do and ways that we could be involved – the purpose of this is educational and to help make connections. We picked Good Shepherd because they have a large fellowship hall.

We want 4 agencies to share with us for about 10 to 15 minutes each. The organizations that sprang to mind first were (in alphabetic order) Family Tree Relief Nursery, FISH, Helping Hands and Jackson Street Youth Services – Pastor Mark is contacting the organizations to see if they can participate. All four organizations are ministry partners, meaning that all four work hard to help people find shelter and safety. We also recognize that the need is great and that there are more than four organizations working in this area. We hope that you can join us and these agencies.

\*Ministerium is a group of churches in the same city or town.

# Daisy Time

BY MARJORIE PICKTHALL

See, the grass is full of stars,  
Fallen in their brightness;  
Hearts they have of shining gold,  
Rays of shining whiteness.

Buttercups have honeyed hearts,  
Bees they love the clover,  
But I love the daisies' dance  
All the meadow over.

Blow, O blow, you happy winds,  
Singing summer's praises,  
Up the field and down the field  
A-dancing with the daisies.

Faith Lutheran Church		2023
<b>STAFF</b>		
Pastor	Mark Bringman	
Office Manager	Carol Armstrong	
Organist/Pianist	Cheryl Blum	
Custodian	Vacant	
<b>CHURCH COUNCIL</b>		
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	



March Financials as of 3/22/2023

Undesignated Income: \$5,589.74

Budgeted Undesignated Income: \$8,166.67

Net Undesignated Income: **(\$2,576.93)**

Total Expenses: \$9,940.55

Total Net Income: **(\$1,480.81)**

# *Church Announcements and Events*

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## **Monday Study Group—1:00pm**

**April 3, 10 & 17**

The focus of our April study is not yet decided. 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.

## **Laundry Love —9:00am to Noon**

**Thursdays, April 6 & 20**

Laundromat near the corner of Queen and Hill

Laundry Love is a program started by churches in the ministerium. We recognize that there are a number of people who don't have access to laundry facilities in their home and have trouble affording them. Twice a month, on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, we offer free laundry for anyone who goes to the laundromat near the corner of Queen and Hill. No questions, no forms, just an opportunity for clean clothes.

If you can help out at Laundry Love on either of those days please let Pastor Mark know. Indeed, Pastor Mark will be away on the 20<sup>th</sup> so he is looking for two people who could sign up for that day. If you have any questions please ask Pastor Mark, Pam Nelson, or Terry Virnig.

## **Maundy Thursday Service—7:00pm**

**Thursday, April 6**

We will have a service on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm centered around Jesus command to love one another. This is the start of the great three days of Holy Week. The service is rich in the traditions of our faith: starting with the community forgiving one another, followed with hand\* washing, communion as Jesus' last supper remembrance, and the stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday.

\* We are doing hand washing rather than foot washing this year, recognizing that it can be hard for people to kneel down and that hand washing might be easier.

## **Ecumenical Good Friday Service—12:00pm**

**Friday, April 7**

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

This ecumenical Good Friday service is a good option for those who prefer an earlier time.

## **Good Friday Service—7:00pm**

**Friday, April 7**

Good Friday centers us on the passion. We will read through the passion in John's gospel together and remember what the incarnation means.

## **Easter Breakfast—9:00am**

**Sunday, April 9**

Come and join us for breakfast before worship on Easter Sunday. There will be plenty for everyone to share and all are welcome.

**Dedication of New Candles****Sunday, April 16**

At the start of worship on this day, we will be dedicating new oil reservoir candles. These candles were funded by donations made in memory of Don Brudvig, Alberta Oster, Phyllis Ledom and Robert McIntyre. Please join us as we dedicate these new elements for our worship space!

**Theology Pub @ The Barn—6:30pm****Tuesday, April 18**

Join us for Theology Pub at The Barn. We meet at The Barn for a variety of reasons: outdoor heaters allow us to meet outside which should be a bit quieter than indoors plus there is a variety of foods for people to choose from. This Bible study/conversation is deliberately laid back and could be a great evening to invite a friend to get to know some of the folks in our congregation.

**Pastor Mark—April Time Off & Vacation****April 20—May 5**

Pastor Mark will be on vacation and will not be reachable during this time. If you need emergency pastoral care, please contact Father Bob Morrison at (54d1) 921-1076.

**Pastor Hallie Parkins** has been called as the new Luther House pastor. She will be leading worship here at Faith on Sundays, April 23 and April 30. We are looking forward to supporting her and Luther House in their ministry together.

**Thank You to all of the people who have helped with refurbishment of the parsonage.**

A lot of people have donated their time and talents in preparing the parsonage for rental. I hesitate to list them all for fear of forgetting someone, but you know who you are and we can't thank you enough. Your work is top notch! Thank you, too, to John and Mary Berg for donating the paint.

**Ophelia's Place Trivia Night Fund Raiser—5:30pm****Friday, April 28**

Test your trivia mettle! You and your team of knowledge buffs are invited to a night of friendly competition and fun all while raising important funds to empower girls in Linn & Benton Counties. Cost of entry is \$400 per team (up to 8 people) or \$50 per person and includes dinner & beer. Register Now at [www.OpheliasPlace.net/trivia-night](http://www.OpheliasPlace.net/trivia-night)

**New Chair-Person Needed — Fellowship Committee**

Denice Rickard has been serving as our Fellowship Committee Chair for this year. She has asked for a replacement as she will be moving to Eugene in the near future. Please consider volunteering for this. If you would like more information regarding this role, please contact Denice at 541-974-5060.

## 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.*

### 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.



### 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](mailto:pegpreston@aol.com)**



## Church Office Hours

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

## Rummage Sale and Quilt Show

The Rummage Sale and Quilt show that had been planned for April 14-15 has been cancelled for this year. As always, Quilts are available for purchase anytime. If interested, you may contact Peggy Preston at (541)926-2697.

## Around the Synod

The synod has a Friday newsletter that you can sign up for here: <http://oregonsynod.org/index.php/oregon-synod-email-subscription/> or you can find that on the front page of the website. The theme or focus for the year is: A Year of Sacred Encounter. Check it out!

### Worship Leaders Team 2023

<b>April</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>30</b>
Assisting Ministers	Ellen	Diane	Carol	Shirley	Jeff
Altar Prep	Elaine	Denice	Pam	Aabergs	Fleishers
Ushers	Wally	Shirley	Kim	Dick	Shirley
Sound Technicians	Gordy	Jon	John	Gordy	Terry

### April Worship Schedule



April 2	10:30am Palm Sunday Worship
April 7	7:00pm Good Friday Worship
April 9	10:30am Easter Sunday Worship
April 16	10:30am Sunday Worship
April 23	10:30am Sunday Worship
April 30	10:30am Sunday Worship

**All Worship Services are Live-Streamed on YouTube**

# 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*



## An Easter Prayer

**Dear Lord, may I realize afresh today what Your death and resurrection mean for me. Forgiveness, freedom, and the ability to walk with You through this fallen world into eternity. May I always find my satisfaction in You and Your willingness to offer Yourself to me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.**





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 8:00am - 12:00pm Church Clean Up Day
<b>2</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming 11:15am Worship & Music Committee	<b>3</b> 1:00pm Bible Study Group 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs	<b>6</b> 7:00pm - 8:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	<b>7</b> 9:00am - 1:30pm String Therapy 10:00am Reports to Council Due 12:00pm Ecumenical Good Friday Service - Good Shepherd Lutheran 5:30pm CoDA 7:00pm Good Friday Service	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Easter Breakfast 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming	<b>10</b> 12:30pm - 3:00pm Modern Travelers 1:00pm Bible Study Group 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>11</b> 1:00pm Mary Martha Circle	<b>12</b> 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs 7:00pm Council Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:00am - 1:30pm String Therapy 5:30pm CoDA	<b>15</b> 9:00am Circle of Friends (Peggy's Gazebo)
<b>16</b> 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming	<b>17</b> 1:00pm Bible Study Group 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>18</b> 6:30pm Theology Pub @ The Barn	<b>19</b> 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs	<b>20</b> Pastor Mark - Vacation 8:00am Newsletter Deadline	<b>21</b> Pastor Mark - Vacation 9:00am - 1:00pm String Therapy 1:00pm 20th Century Book Club 5:30pm CoDA	<b>22</b> Pastor Mark - Vacation
<b>23</b> Pastor Mark - Vacation 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming	<b>24</b> Pastor Mark - Vacation 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>25</b> Pastor Mark - Vacation	<b>26</b> Pastor Mark - Vacation 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs	<b>27</b> Pastor Mark - Vacation	<b>28</b> Pastor Mark - Vacation 9:00am - 1:30pm String Therapy 5:30pm CoDA	<b>29</b> Pastor Mark - Vacation
<b>30</b> Pastor Mark - Vacation 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming 11:15am Fellowship Meeting						



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2023

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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