

FAITH at WORK

October 2023

Friends in Christ –

What does it mean to be Lutheran?

We can answer this a few different ways.

One of these is ancestry. For your grandparents it might have been that they were from the Dakotas, or Minnesota or Pennsylvania, regions of our country with more Lutherans. Their grandparents may have come from Sweden or Denmark or Germany. The ancestry answer recognizes that Lutherans are often reticent to speak about their faith, to evangelize. For many of us, our journey to this group is because we were born into it, from generations of people born into it. Of course this answer doesn't say much about what it means to be Lutheran.

What does it mean to be Lutheran?

Another way we can answer this is in our history. Martin Luther nailed the 95 theses from the church door in Wittenberg in response to abuses in the Roman Catholic Church. Congregations at that point were generally administered from the Vatican. After the Reformation many secular leaders, such as princes, burghers and monarchs, appointed priests and decided on the governance. We can see in this the history of our congregational structure. But this answer also doesn't satisfy.

What does it mean to be Lutheran?

A focus on grace. We can talk about our ancestral heritage or our history but what is at the heart of Lutheranism is the focus on grace. Luther, Melancthon, Franke, Katarina von Bora (Luther's wife) and all the other reformers focused on the radical idea that God's love was freely given, never earned. Grace is the gift of God to all peoples, is the gift that names and claims all of us. Grace upon grace upon grace. Grace forgives us and sets us free from all the sin that holds us, claims us for love and God's work. Grace isn't something that we earn, isn't something that we do, it is the everlasting gift of God's favor.

(Continued on page 2)

Faith Lutheran Church

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(Continued from page 1)

Grace is the centrality of what it means to be Lutheran. Grace reminds us that God loves us because it is God's nature, grace reminds us that we are made right with God because of eternal love. This central concept – that God loves us and all the creation is at the center of what it means to be Lutheran. Our theology, at its core, reminds us that everyone is created in the image of God, everyone has worth, everyone is claimed not because of what we have said or done but because of what God has done. Grace is the eternal gift, beating at the heart of the gospel, the gift that says Jesus loves you.

This is most certainly true.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Mark



Reformation Sunday Breakfast—9:00am

Sunday, October 29

We are going to have a fellowship breakfast together the last Sunday of the month. Pastor Mark and the Virnigs will make a casserole and there will be a sign up sheet if you'd like to bring one as well. We thought it would be nice to share a meal together as we remember the freedom and the joy that we have in God's amazing grace.

As this is Reformation Sunday, the color of the day is red - so feel free to wear festive red that day!

In The Month Of October

In the month of October,
 a season's tale unfolds,
 As nature's palette shifts,
 vibrant colors behold.
 The weather turns cooler,
 a crispness fills the air,
 Leaves cascade like confetti,
 a dance without a care.

Children's hearts flutter,
 counting days with glee,
 Anticipating Halloween,
 a night of mystery.
 The sun's rays wane,
 as twilight gently sweeps,
 Shorter hours of daylight,
 as the world slowly sleeps.

October's charm enchants,
 a magical embrace,
 A symphony of change,
 in this transient space.
 With each passing day,
 a glimpse of nature's art,
 October's beauty whispers,
 etching memories in the heart.

by Catherine Pulsifer



Faith Lutheran Church		2023
STAFF		
Pastor	Mark Bringman	
Office Manager	Carol Armstrong	
Organist/Pianist	Cheryl Blum	
Custodian	Hart's Janitorial	
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	



Financials as of: September 25, 2023

Undesignated Income: \$5,853.99
 Budgeted Undesignated Income: \$8,166.67
 Net Undesignated Income: **(\$2,312.68)**
 Total Expenses: \$4,580.35
 Total Net Income: \$5,863.64

Church Announcements and Events

4

Blessing of the Animals—After Church

Sunday, October 1

This is the Sunday closest to the feast of St Francis (which falls on Wednesday that week) when we remember God's blessing to all the creation. You are invited to bring in your pet, or a picture of the pet, as we pray for God's blessing on our feathery or furry companions in our pilgrimage through life.

Worship and Music Committee—11:30am

Sunday, October 1

The worship planning group is going to meet after church to pick hymns for the next couple of months. If you want to help pick the hymns that we are going to be singing during this time, bring a bag lunch and stop on by.

Bible Study Group—1:00pm

Monday, October 2, 9, 16 & 30

Join us for fellowship, prayer and discussion. We meet in the fellowship hall (and have a zoom stream so that you can join us from your house if that's easier). We are probably going to be digging into the book of Daniel because the group was intrigued when Pastor Mark described it as the weirdest book in the entire bible.

Do you want to learn more about Daniel? Did you know that it's the only book in the Bible where the earliest manuscripts we can find are partially in one language and partially in another? Did you know that it's apocalyptic nature (which means unveiling in Greek)? Join us!

Theology Pub @ The Barn—6:30pm

Tuesday, October 10

Join us for a fun evening with free ranging discussion about the intersection of faith and life. This group is for friendly conversation and fellowship. One of the ideas behind theology pub was that it could be a low key engagement point for friends who don't have a church home.

This month we are going to be back at the Barn. Pastor Mark usually gets there a bit earlier to grab food from a food truck and to try to get a table. See you there!

New Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church

Sunday, October 8

Grace Lutheran in Corvallis is voting on a new pastor October 8; we will hold them in prayer.

FISH Food Drive Drop Site—10am - 2pm

Saturday, October 21

Faith Lutheran Church is again a drop site for the drive-up collection of food for FISH of Albany. If you are willing to help as a volunteer for a couple of hours with Pastor Mark, please let him know.

Gather: Rivers of Mercy @ The Barn—6:00pm**Wednesday, October 18**

Do you know any young adults between the ages of 18 and 35? This new group is being formed to promote fellowship and discussion among younger adults to see what can happen when we join forces.

Gather: Rivers of Mercy, is being supported by a grant from ELCA. We are looking to bring together a group 'in the gap', to foster a place of meaningful connection.

We are beginning with low key gatherings at **The Barn at Hickory Station in North Albany** as an easy and public way to get to know each other (and a central location between the tri cities of Corvallis, Lebanon and Albany). Join us, grab a bite from a food cart, feel free to bring along the family (or just yourself) and help start a new group!

See you in September, October or November. If you have any questions or want to participate but can't make those dates, please get in touch with Kristin Young young.kristin.723@gmail.com or Pastor Mark pastormarkbringman@gmail.com or Pastor Hallie at housepastor@peak.org

We have wrapped up the Sanctified Art series and are back to the typical liturgy. This season after Pentecost is called normal time, although our worship reminds us that there is nothing normal about God's love.

Pastor Mark—Light Week**October 23—29**

Pastor Mark will be available for emergency pastoral care only during this time.

LWR In-Gathering**October 27—28****Driver Needed!**

A driver is needed to transport boxes of quilts and school kits to Beaverton for the Lutheran World Relief In-Gathering. These collection activities are held at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 12405 SW Butner Road, Beaverton, OR, between 8am—4pm on Friday and from 9am—12pm on Saturday.

To volunteer, please contact Peggy Preston at (541) 223-0197.

Have Coffee or a Walk With Pastor Mark

Pastor Mark will begin dropping Mary off at Liberty Elementary most days at 7:45am. That means he will be at the church earlier than has been the case previously. While he will use some of that time in study and prayer, if you are a morning person he would love to have a cup of coffee with you or head out for a prayer walk. Please reach out to him.

All Saints' Sunday

Sunday, November 5

The first Sunday of November is the day that we remember all those who have come before us in faith. It's a day when we remember that the Holy Spirit binds all the church into one community.

If there is anyone you wish to remember in our worship service that day, please add their name to the list either by writing their name on the list or emailing their name to the church office. A list will be placed on the table in the Fireside Room beginning October 15th. Names can be e-mailed anytime.



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.*

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.

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**



Church Office Hours

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

Worship Leaders Team 2023

October	1	8	15	22	29
Assisting Ministers	Shirley	Ellen	Carol	Shirley	Jeff
Altar Prep	Carol A.	Pam	George	Elaine	Fleischers
Ushers	Dick	Wally	Dick	Wally	Dick
Sound Technicians	John	Gordy	Terry	John	Gordy



Fall & Holiday Bazaar—9am to 4pm

November 3 & 4



This year's Fall & Holiday Bazaar will have homespun crafts, quilts, and baked goods galore. Bring your friends to shop for holiday treasures!

Lunch will be served from 11:00am-1:30pm and Coffee, Tea & Goodies will be served all day! (Both Days!)

October 2023 Worship Schedule



October 1	10:30am	Sunday Worship Service
October 8	10:30am	Sunday Worship Service
October 15	10:30am	Sunday Worship Service
October 22	10:30am	Sunday Worship Service
October 29	10:30am	Sunday Worship Service

All Worship Services are filmed and available on YouTube



October

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming 11:15am Blessing of the Animals	2 1:00pm Bible Study Group 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3	4 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOPs	5 Janitorial Service	6 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	7
8 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming 11:15am Worship & Music Planning Meeting	9 12:30pm - 3:00pm Modern Travelers 1:00pm Bible Study Group 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10 1:00pm Mary Martha Circle	11 9:00am Quilters-Quilts on Pews 9:00am TOPs 7:00pm Council Meeting	12	13 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	14
15 Blessing of Quilts Pastor Mark Vacation 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming	16 1:00pm Bible Study Group 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17	18 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOPs 6:00pm Gather: Rivers of Mercy @ The Barn	19 Janitorial Service	20 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy 1:00pm 20th Century Book Club	21 9:00am Circle of Friends (Peggy's Gazebo)
22 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming	23 Pastor Mark Off 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24 Pastor Mark Off	25 Pastor Mark Off 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOPs	26 Pastor Mark Off	27 Pastor Mark Off 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy 7:00pm Game Night - Bingo and More	28 Fall Ingathering - Quilts and School Kits Pastor Mark Off 7:00am - 5:00pm Girl Scouts - Pinewood Derby
29 9:00am - 10:00am Reformation Sunday Breakfast 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming 11:15am Fellowship Meeting	30 1:00pm Bible Study Group 7:00pm Boy Scouts	31	1 9:00am TOPs	2 Janitorial Service	3 8:00am - 4:00pm Fall & Holiday Bazaar 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	4 8:00am - 4:00pm Fall & Holiday Bazaar

Prayer List

9

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

Tim B.	Izzy Covalt	Nicholas Glass
Brenda Carroll	Garrett Baarsch	Karen Hoover
Sandy Hina	Stephanie Bauthman	Karen Glenn
Robert Jon	Carl Wogomon	Jon McLarty
Linda Gail Voet	John Busher	Drew Butler
Melba Wright	Heather	Pat Norby
Brandon Crawford	Julie Shaw	Jim Preston
Noah Holman	Lee Horst	Chuck
Gigi Douglas	Margaret Rowland	Rose Mary Aaberg
Chiera Family	Olivia Hunter	

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

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.



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Church**

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STAMP
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