

# FAITH at WORK

July 2024

Dear people of God at Faith Lutheran Church,

On the first Sunday of July we will dive into the Focus Points of Mission and Future, entering into a time of communal discernment about God's invitation to Faith Lutheran to journey toward a new horizon. This will take some time. Decisions are not made quickly, but we will consider all options and listen to one another, listen for the Holy Spirit's guidance, to hear with our hearts and faith what God is up to among you.

What does that future look like for Faith? I do not know. Remember that I did not come to you with any agenda, only to walk with you through this time of transition. We have witnessed your history as a gathered community of followers of Jesus. You have recalled the leaders God sent you and the ministry that you did together for the sake of the good news in Christ Jesus. Now the harder part: discerning Mission and Future. Exciting and scary stuff!

In Jeremiah, God's people were taken into exile and the prophet spoke God's words to them. In Chapter 29 they learn that they are to settle down for a long time in exile. They are to build homes, work, plant gardens and be in Babylonia. Then comes the promise in verse 11: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Isn't that a beautiful promise? A future with hope.

Recent years have accelerated what has been going on in churches of all denominations: the graying and decline of church membership. In the Oregon Synod there are over 17 congregations discerning their future. These are congregations in varied situations, but needing to make some hard decisions about their future. They do not do this alone but are accompanied by the Holy Spirit, the Bishop's staff and rostered leaders.

It takes faith to trust God's promise, knowing that it may take some time, that it may be painful or challenging. However, you are not alone. God accompanies us as we move into the future with hope.

These two Focus Points—Mission and Future—will help you answer the questions: Who are we? Who is our neighbor? And What is God calling us to be and do? When you can answer these Key Questions then you will discern the future of Faith.

(Continued on Page 6)

## Faith Lutheran Church

930 Queen Ave SW, Albany OR 97321

email: [faithalbany@proaxis.com](mailto:faithalbany@proaxis.com)

website: [www.faithalbany.org](http://www.faithalbany.org)

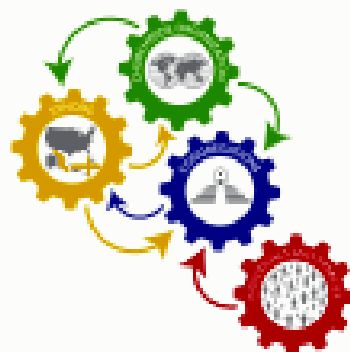
Phone: (541) 928-7660





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## WHERE DOES MY OFFERING GO?

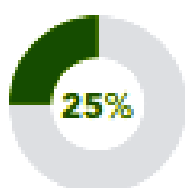


ELCA members in more than 9,300 congregations in the United States and Caribbean give approximately **\$1.75 billion** in regular offering to support ELCA ministries in their local communities and worldwide. When members give through their **congregations**, a percentage of that money is then shared with the local **synod** and the national **churchwide organization**.

This unrestricted giving, called Mission Support, gives us both the foundation and the fuel to do God's work in the world and a portion of the gifts circle back to support ministries in synods and local congregations. Of these unrestricted gifts, the churchwide organization receives around 2.6 percent. This represents the largest portion of the ELCA churchwide organization's operating budget.

Your Mission Support helps fund the following churchwide ministries:

### Grow the ELCA in the United States

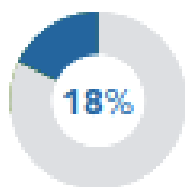


**357**

Plant and support  
357 new  
congregations.

- **Enable congregations to renew their ministries** and reach out to their surrounding communities.
- **Work together** with our African Descent, American Indian and Alaska Native, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Latino/Latina members to develop networks and resources for ministry.
- **Develop and share resources** for faith, discipleship, prayer and worship.

### Grow the Lutheran church around the world

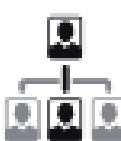
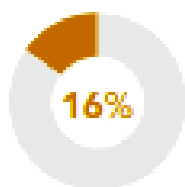


**230**

Send 230 missionaries  
in more than 48 countries,  
and more than 84 Young  
Adults in Global Mission in  
11 country programs.

- As a member of The Lutheran World Federation, we're in communion with 145 member churches and directly connected to 85 companion churches in other countries.
- **Accompany new Lutheran churches**, expand ministries, and train leaders and evangelists.

### Provide coordination and support for churchwide ministries

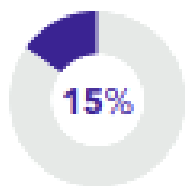


**1.1 million**

Maintain constituent  
database, including 1.1  
million records of rostered  
and lay leaders, members,  
donors and congregations.

- **Preserve and maintain archives and historic records** of the ELCA and its predecessor bodies.
- **Provide office space, equipment and human resources** for staff and operations.
- **Process 150,000 gifts** to ELCA ministries.
- **Equip congregations and synods** with resources to assist in risk management and legal matters.

### Support and develop current and future leaders in the ELCA

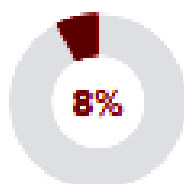


**9,900**

Recruit, prepare and  
implement a system  
for the assignment of  
9,900 rostered ministers.

- **Support the work of seven ELCA seminaries** and 26 colleges and universities.
- **Identify, connect and provide ministry resources** and opportunities for networking for lay leaders.
- **Offer events and leadership opportunities** for youth and young adults.

## Invest in **technology** and **communications**

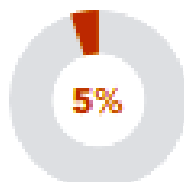


### **Design and maintain communications tools**

to strengthen our Lutheran identity and grow awareness of our church and its mission and ministries.

- **Connect members with one another** through new technology and systems.

## Provide **governance** and **leadership**

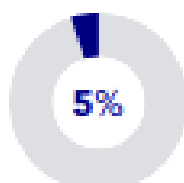


# 65

**Coordinate meetings and support** for 65 synodical bishops.

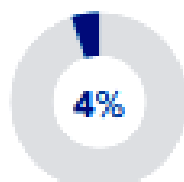
- **Organize lay and clergy leaders from across the church to serve** on the governance boards and committees that provide guidance and oversight for ELCA ministries.

## Grow and sustain financial resources



**Develop and promote** efforts related to stewardship education, financial literacy, mission interpretation and growth in giving to all church ministries.

## Address social issues and **work for justice**



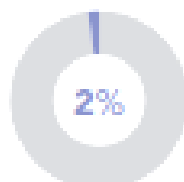
# 1 in 50

**Support** social ministry organizations, such as Lutheran Services in America, to impact the lives of **1 in 50** Americans.

- **Engage** in churchwide study and deliberation to create social statements and resources that address social, political, environmental and other public issues.
- **Equip** members and leaders to advocate with lawmakers in order to support policies that promote justice and peace.

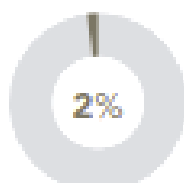
Your designated gifts to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response provide additional funds annually to address hunger, poverty and suffering around the world.

## Engage in **research** and **strategic planning**



**Research and analyze** trends that impact the ELCA and develop innovative strategies to improve mission and ministry in the 21st century.

## Sustain **ecumenical** and **interfaith** relationships



**Facilitate dialogue and common action** among communities of other faiths, including the development of resources and communications for ELCA congregations.

- **Seek unity in faith and life** with all Lutherans and six full communion partners.

## America The Beautiful

O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain!  
America! America!  
God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet  
Whose stern impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat  
Across the wilderness.  
America! America!  
God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self-control,  
Thy liberty in law.

O beautiful for heroes proved  
In liberating strife,  
Who more than self their country loved,  
And mercy more than life.  
America! America!  
May God thy gold refine  
Till all success be nobleness,  
And every gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream  
That sees beyond the years  
Thine alabaster cities gleam  
Undimmed by human tears.  
America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea.

—Katharine Lee Bates



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: June 26, 2024

Undesignated Income: \$4,134.96  
 Budgeted Undesignated Income: \$6,720.83  
 Net Undesignated Income: (\$2,585.87)  
 Total Expenses: \$5,628.73  
 Total Net Income: \$3,526.23

# Church Announcements and Events

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## Mark Your Calendar & Sign Up Online!

Tuesday, July 2

Blood Drive



The Blood Drive will be in the Fellowship Hall at Faith Lutheran Church from 11:30 am to 5:00 pm. To schedule your appointment, call **800-733-2767** or sign up online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), using sponsor code: faithlutheranalbany.

## Transition Work for July

Sundays, July 7 & 21

**July 7: Potluck —11:45am** Please use the sign-up sheet to indicate what food you will bring to share.

**Transition Work: Mission & Future—12:15pm** This day will be focused on brainstorming and listening to the Spirit of God to hear God's invitation to a new horizon.

**July 21: Transition Work: Mission & Future—11:45am** We will meet for one hour after service for further discernment on Mission & Future.

## 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.

## 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.

(Continued from Page 1)

In the meantime, pray, listen, and imagine the future God holds. I am encouraged by Ephesians 3:20-21: "Now to the One who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

Let us be encouraged, filled with hope for the future God is inviting Faith Lutheran community into. Let us do the work of discernment—listening to each other, dreaming with God of the mission to which Faith Lutheran has been called, and trusting God's promises and steadfast love.

In Christ, peace and hope,

Pr. Dorthy+

### 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.***

### Annual School Supply Drive

Sales will begin soon in local stores so it's the perfect time to begin collecting items for the Annual School Supply Drive. Education is important for any community, but especially where poverty or disaster have limited the options for young people to reach their potential. School kits that contain essential supplies can help ensure they can continue learning despite the hardships they face.

**We have set a goal for 75 kits to be donated through Lutheran World Relief.**

#### ITEMS NEEDED FOR EACH SCHOOL KIT:

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper approximately 8 x 10 ½"
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- One 2 ½ inch pink eraser
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- Five ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES WILL BE COLLECTED THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1, 2024**

**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](mailto:pegprestonn@aol.com)

<b>Worship Leaders Team 2024</b>				
<b>July</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28</b>
Assisting Ministers	Carol O.	George	Janice	Shirley
Altar Prep	Elaine	George	Elaine	George
Ushers	Terry	Dick	George	Dick
Sound Technicians	John	Gordy	Terry	John

**July 2024 Worship Schedule**

July 7	10:30am	Worship
July 14	10:30am	Worship
July 21	10:30am	Worship
July 28	10:30am	Worship

**All Worship Services are available on YouTube**



# July

## 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>2</b> 9:45am - 5:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	<b>3</b> <b>Janitorial Service</b> 9:00am No Quilters 9:00am TOPs	<b>4</b> <b>Independence Day!</b> 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	<b>5</b> 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming - Pr. Dorthy Nielsen 11:45am - 2:00pm Potluck and Transition Work: Mission & Future	<b>8</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>9</b> 1:30pm Mary Martha Circle 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	<b>10</b> 9:00am No Quilters 9:00am TOPs	<b>11</b> 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	<b>12</b> 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming - Pr. Michael Keys	<b>15</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>16</b> 1:00pm - 3:00pm D.A.R. Monthly Meeting 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	<b>17</b> 9:00am No Quilters 9:00am TOPs	<b>18</b> <b>Janitorial Service</b> 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	<b>19</b> 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy 2:00pm - 7:00pm Jackson Street BBQ - Back Yard	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming - Pr. Dorthy Nielsen	<b>22</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>23</b> 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	<b>24</b> 9:00am No Quilters 9:00am TOPs	<b>25</b> 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	<b>26</b> 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming - TBD 11:15am Fellowship Meeting	<b>29</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>30</b> 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	<b>31</b> 9:00am No Quilters 9:00am TOPs			



Pastor Nick and Kris Doversberger, June 23, 2024

Pastor Nick Doversberger, former minister at Faith Lutheran Church, led worship for us on June 23, 2024.

For long-time members this was a delightful blast to the past. It was great to have them with us.



# Prayer List

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

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

*REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND:*

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

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

Dick Olsen Family and Friends of Rachel Olsen



## A Prayer of Thanks for Summer

Thank you, God, for the pleasures of summer,  
the bright sunny days and perfect moonlit evenings,  
the smells of newly mowed grass and air thick with rain.  
Thank you for days at the lake  
and the soft, warm breezes at the end of the day.  
Thank you for vacations and festivals,  
picnics and cookouts, baseball and concerts,  
swimsuits and popsicles.  
Thank you for the fireworks of thunderstorms,  
for watermelon sweetness,  
for summer's pace and summer's grace.  
Thank you for showing us your beauty, power, abundance  
and glory. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.



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**Faith at Work**

**2024**

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Faith Lutheran Church  
930 Queen Ave SW  
Albany, OR 97321