

Following Faith February 2022

From the Pastor

Two reflections have peered into my life more strongly recently. First, I've started reading some very good books again, encouraged by a friend, and I find the dark and cold nights of January/February have been just the setting for longer reads, soaking in the words and staying warm—in body and heart.

And second, I've been thinking a lot about Joseph from the book of Genesis. His is such a winding, fascinating, unbelievable tale of perseverance, hope, dreaming, and proclamation. We are talking through his story in Bible Study after worship on 1/30 and 4/6. And as I've wondered how his faith or strength kept him alive in times of slavery and captivity (times in which he's literally "dreaming"!), I began looking for stories of how faith and strength stay with us. In the dark. In the cold. In the loneliness or need.

And it's not just Joseph. In his book Wait With Me, Jason Gaboury shares this insightful catalog of biblical heroes that experienced loneliness ... but through whom God worked and was present to the world:

- Abraham experienced loneliness in *his desire for family*: "Oh that Ishmael might live in your sight!" (Gen. 17:18).
- Moses experienced loneliness *when he fled Egypt*.
- Jacob experienced loneliness in the face of *his ambition*.
- Elijah faced loneliness in fatigue *after his great victory*.
- Nehemiah faced loneliness *in leadership* as he dealt with opposition from outside and sabotage within.
- Job experienced loneliness *in suffering* while his friends offered little comfort.
- Esther experienced loneliness *in the palace*: "But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days" (Esther 4:11 ESV).
- Mary chose loneliness in *her embrace of God's call*: "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38 ESV).
- Paul experienced loneliness *in mission*.
- Ultimately Jesus experienced *the deepest loneliness of all* as he cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matt. 27:46).

These stories reveal God's transforming presence and power in the lives of individuals and communities. Joseph's story finds reconciliation, help, and faith in the end. And I believe we all will be embraced by that same grace, perhaps in this life and definitely in the next. I am praying that in these dark and cold months — and through these hard months and years we've all experienced — I am praying that you know the company of the great cloud of witnesses that have trod these same darknesses and yet have found themselves held by the light.

Light of epiphany be with you,

+Pastor Shaun

Short and Sweet

As you may have noticed, this month's newsletter is a bit shorter than usual. Since all of our committee and council members just submitted their annual reports, we encourage you to look over that publication for the most up-to-date information. If you do not have a copy of the Annual Report, there are copies on the table in the Narthex, and a version posted to the website (faithlutheranreno.org).

Save The Date!

The Fellowship Team has planned several activities for this year. Please save these dates. More info will be given as each date gets closer. Please let Pat Porter or Sonja Dresbach know if you have any ideas for congregation activities.

- Sunday, April 17, 8:00 am Easter Breakfast Continental Style
- Sunday, May 29. Taco/Bingo Night
- Sunday, June 19 Welcome Summer Ice Cream Social, featuring Stan's Shake Shop
- Sunday, August 14. Volunteer Appreciation Day, with a Western BBQ
- Saturday, October 1 Octoberfest!

2022 Church Council

Jean Carter
Sonja Dresbach
Judi Hein
LindaLu Miller
Pr. Shaun O'Reilly
Betty Thompson
Eileen Way
Kathy Wilson
Amy Zimmerman

Online Giving

On our website (faithlutheranreno.org), anyone now has the option to donate online. Faith Lutheran utilizes Tithe.ly, a secure online giving company, that is associated with the ELCA.

Dear Congregation!

You may have heard during our budget planning conversations that

we are hoping to help Skylar and an adult or two attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering coming up (late July). For now, the plans have been paused because the gathering site is observing what's possible with the pandemic and what things might look like this Summer. So --> give us another few weeks and then we will hope to outline ways you might consider giving to various fundraisers that help Skylar and Reno/Sparks Youth attend this faith-building event for teenagers.

More Soon, Pr Shaun



Thank you!

Thank you to everyone that helped with preparation for the Annual Meeting last week! We were able to pass the budget, elect new members to the Church Council, and elect voting members to attend 2022 Synod assembly.

We especially want to thank Outgoing President Pat Porter for running the meeting, Treasurer LindaLu for presenting the budget, and Secretary Jean Carter for keeping minutes. We also want to thank all of you for your active participation in our Faith community!

Sunday Worship Zoom Information

Visit our website faithlutheranreno.org to join Zoom via video

Join Zoom via Phone

Dial: 1 669-900-9128
Meeting ID: 97416357933
Password: 303457

If you feel so moved, you are welcome to set aside a designated space to worship. You are invited to light a candle, add a flower vase, or perhaps cover the space with a special cloth; whatever aids you in centering for worship.

LUNCH BUNCH

The lunch bunch has resumed, meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at 12pm, noon. Join us for a potluck lunch and fellowship on February 2nd.

January Food Pantry

Feb. 7th	OPEN
Feb. 14th	OPEN
Feb. 21st	OPEN
Feb. 28th	OPEN

Recipients are asked to remain in their vehicles while Food Pantry volunteers distribute pre-bagged food in the parking lot.

Prayer Requests

Please send all prayer requests to prayers@faithlutheranreno.org, rather than Sonja's personal email, thank you!

Bible Study

Join us Tuesday Afternoons 1:30-2:30 to read and discuss the Bible scripture for the following Sunday. This helps us prepare for the next Sunday's Worship Service. All are welcome, join us as we share and learn from each other.

To join us on Zoom, follow these instructions:

Call: 669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 81034813266

Password: 430175

February Schedule

- Feb 1: Luke 5:1-11; Psalm 138; Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
- Feb 8: Luke 6:17-26; Psalm 1; Jeremiah 17:5-10; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20
- Feb 15: Luke 6:27-38; Psalm 37:1-11,39-40; Genesis 45:3-11,15; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
- Feb 22: Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]; Psalm 99; Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

For more information contact Eileen Way at helenflc@hotmail.com or 775-560-3248.

Shared Harvest

Thank you to everyone who donated and helped assemble bags last month! Below are the requested items for February's Shared Harvest.

Bags will be assembled on February 27th at St. Luke's Lutheran Church.

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| • Cold Cereal | 28 boxes |
| • Canned Fruit | 42 cans |
| • Powdered Milk | 42 packets |
| • Peanut Butter | 28 jars |
| • Bar Soap | Unlimited |

February 2022

Faith Lutheran Church

Sum	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 1:30pm Bible Study	2 12pm (noon) Lunch Bunch	3	4	5
6 9am Acolyte Training 9:30am Worship	7 11am Food Pantry	8 1:30pm Bible Study	9	10 6pm Communications Team	11	12 10am Worship Team
13 9:30am Worship	14 11am Food Pantry	15 1:30pm Bible Study	16	17	18	19 10am Finance Team
20 9:30am Worship Nevada Sage Waldorf School Winter Break	21 11am Food Pantry 6pm Council Meeting	22 1:30pm Bible Study	23	24	25	26
27 9:30am Worship	28 11am Food Pantry	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Weekly Group Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACA; Mondays at 5:30pm • Sierra High Notes; Wednesdays at 6:00pm • 4-H Whip-stirs; 2nd Wednesday at 6:30pm • Scouts; Thursdays at 7:00pm • NARFE; 3rd Tuesday at 11:00am </div>				