

# Following Faith

March 2022

Friends in Christ,

I am sure your heart has filled with prayers of peace or longing this week, as mine has. I have been praying our Kyrie: Lord, have mercy! Christ have mercy! And I have found myself praying this in my car, as the desert places whiz by my window.

As you may know, in my hospice chaplain work-time apart from Faith Lutheran, I drive a lot. I go to Fernley and Fallon, and Lovelock and Hawthorne. I drive a lot!

Usually it's good. I have time to think and pray, and listen to audiobooks and plan my sermons. And in these hard days of war across the world—the invasion of Ukraine—and innocent people living in fear of what powerful folks might do ... well, I know all our prayers have turned that direction too.



I love the Great Basin and I love the ecotones we live within: from mountain ranges to desert and playa. And in times of both transcendence and in times of need, I find this desert basin setting an appropriate reflection of the posture of my soul.

I find myself saying what Peter says in the gospel story of the transfiguration: “Lord, it is good for us to be here!” And, I wonder if it means I can feel further connected to Jesus of Nazareth? Maybe. He knew the desert.

In fact, Jesus’ time in the desert is an important factor in the Church’s observance of Lent. We enter a 40-day journey together. 40 being a key number.

Jesus lived in desert dust for 40 days before launching out to heal, and teach, forgive and feed. He was tempted. He fasted, prayed, recited scripture, and claimed God as his loving parent!

For 40 years the Israelites wandered the desert, waiting to enter the promised land. God’s people had been made free, but hearts had also turned calloused and hard and forgetful. They needed to turn and see again. They needed rebirth in the desert!

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Office: 775-747-3246

2075 W 7th St.

office@faithlutheranreno.org

Pr. Shaun: (775) 737-9151

Reno, NV 89503

www.faithlutheranreno.org

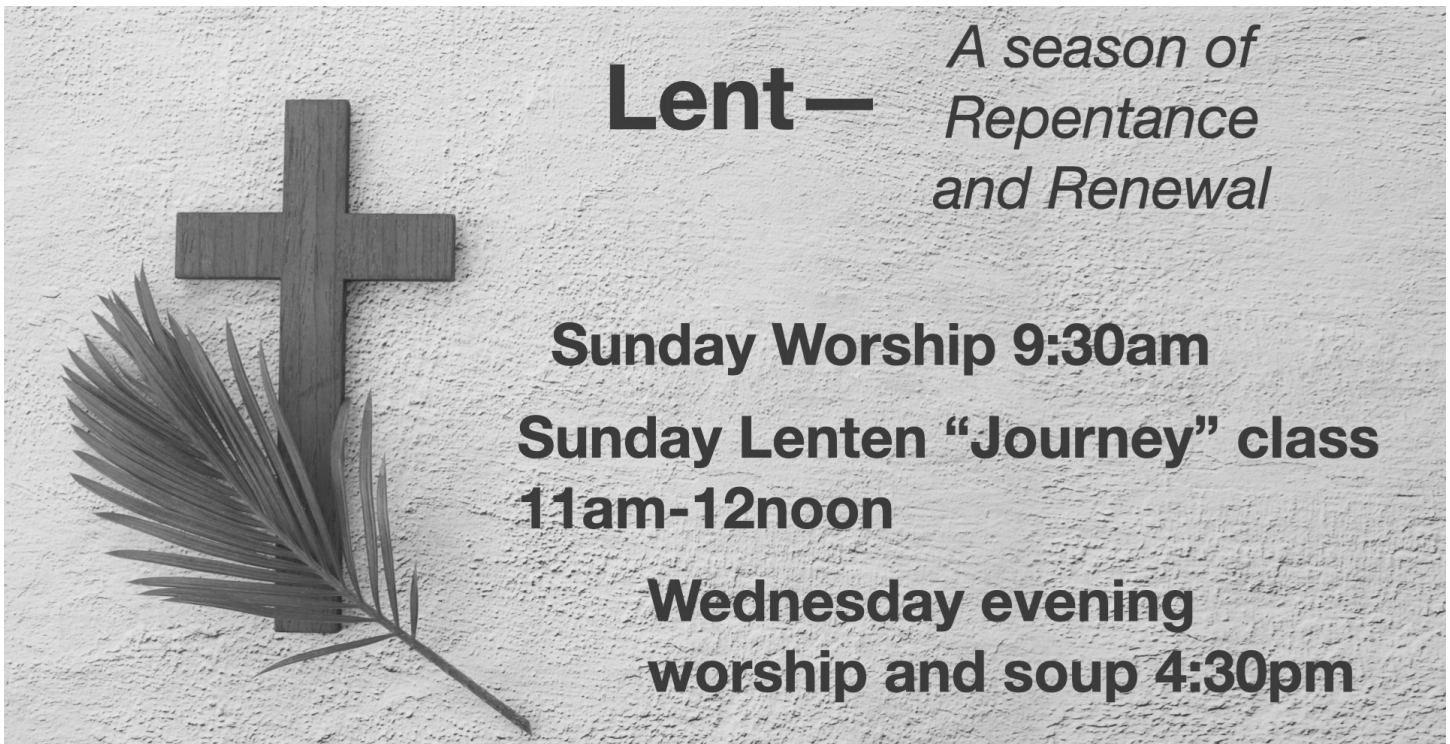
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So, we enter the living of these 40 days of Lent as reminder and reenactment. This is a season of Repentance and Renewal, and our prayers for peace in the world are fitting. We walk in humility and yearning through this “desert” together, and we’ll arrive at Palm Sunday, and then the great Three Days. Where there is death. And there is Life.

**Whether we really know it or not, we need this truth: There is death. And there is Life. “Remember that you are dust.” And Lent is an available teacher now.**

May you find time to reflect and return to God, in the ways that call to you. May the Mercy we are praying for the world take root in our lives, so that we bear the fruits of grace. Yes, even in our deserts.

+Pastor Shaun



### **2022 Church Council**

**President:** Eileen Way

**Vice President:**

Amy Zimmerman

**Secretary:** Jean Carter

**Treasurer:** LindaLu Miller

**Members at Large:**

Sonja Dresbach

Judi Hein

Kathy Wilson

Pr. Shaun O’Reilly

### **Team Leaders**

**Communications:**

Amy Zimmerman

**Fellowship:**

Sonja Dresbach & Pat Porter

**Finance:** LindaLu Miller

**Personnel:** Linda Zimmerman

**Property:** Sonja Dresbach

**Stewardship:** Pat Porter

**Worship:** Judy Carlin

### **Church Staff**

**Accompanists:**

Karon Felten & Derek Friend

**Admin Assistant:**

Grace Tibben-Lembke

**Custodian:** Eileen Way

**Newsletter Editor:**

Grace Tibben-Lembke

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Your church council met Monday evening. We enjoyed pizza and elected officers.

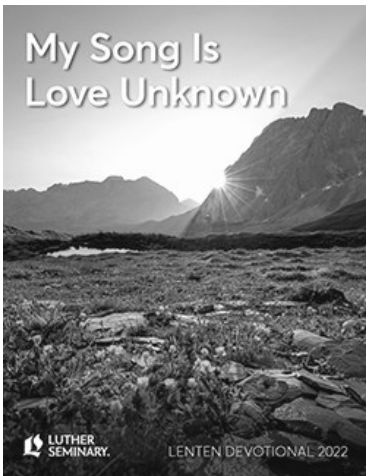
Your 2022 Church Council is Eileen Way -President, Amy Zimmerman Vice President, Jean Carter Secretary, Linda Lu Miller Treasurer.

Members at large are Kathy Wilson, Sonja Dresbach, Judi Hein, and Pastor Shaun O'Reilly.

February is waning and March is on its way. Signs of Spring are popping up. Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day brings us to Ash Wednesday when we are marked with a cross on our foreheads to symbolize both death and repentance in order to begin 40 days of Lent. Look for the Lenten Devotional Booklet in the narthex so you can reflect and prepare for Easter. We'll enjoy soup suppers after our Lenten services. Lent is a time of fasting so simple suppers are in order to sustain us on our journey.

The council looks forward to work for you to make our ministry at Faith Lutheran a meaningful time to help and support and pray for each other. Please reach out to us with ideas and needs you have.

Your Friend in Christ,  
Eileen Way, President  
Faith Lutheran Church



Lenten devotionals from Luther Seminary are available in the Narthex. Please feel free to take a copy! A digital copy is available at the following website:

<https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/lenten-devotional/>

Join us as we discuss our journey in Lent. We invite you to read and journal through this Lenten devotional, and Sundays from 11am-12noon we can share what has picked us up, what encouragements or challenges we have faced in our Lenten reflections. This is a holy "pilgrimage"--traveling the Lenten way and paying attention to our relationships with God/Self/Others. Come and listen and share!

## Easter Flower Order Form

Please indicate the number of Easter Mums you would like to order and return this form to the church office with either cash or a check. To have your name printed in the Easter Bulletin, please have your form in by **Wednesday, April 13th**.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Mums (\$10 each) \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory/Honor/Celebration of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory/Honor/Celebration of: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Order Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you!!

## Midweek Worship and Soup Suppers

The season of Lent has arrived and with it our **Wednesday worship services** together. Join us at 4:30pm each Wednesday in Lent.



Lent is a season of repentance, turning to God and asking for God's goodness to wipe away our sins and shows us how to live anew. Lent also turns us toward Easter and the abundant life God will offer through the Three Days. This **Lenten midweek service turns us toward God's abundance** by focusing on five divine attributes drawn from the gospel texts for Lent (year C): faithfulness, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and love. Each service is designed for sustained reflection of the gospel in the context of contemplative prayer, readings, silence, and song.

The soup supper that will follow is a wonderful time of fellowship. Lent and Soup go together. Soup that is simple, humble, warm, nourishing. Pastor Ryan Dueck wrote that the Lenten soup supper is a statement of choice. "We choose not to eat as much or the same as we might during other times of the year as a way of remembering that we do not live on bread alone — to acknowledge, even in the context of abundance, that our deepest hunger is for God. For the future God is preparing for us is one of feasting and the celebration of friendship with God and neighbor."

Please join us for Ash Wednesday on March 2nd, and then on March 9th and the following four Wednesdays for times of nourishing our bodies and souls.

### Faith Lutheran Hiring:

As Grace moves on in her educational goals we are opening the process to hire an Administrative Assistant for our church office. Interested? Know someone who is? Please reach out to Linda Zimmerman: [zephyrarabians@yahoo.com](mailto:zephyrarabians@yahoo.com)

"It's not how much we give  
but how much love we put into giving"

-Mother Teresa

Your Stewardship Team

## March Worship in Lent

Ash Wednesday— We begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. We pray and yearn. Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.



### **March 6 - 1st Sunday in Lent**

Each year Lent begins with a synoptic account of the testing of Jesus. Jesus was truly human, suffering from the devil's temptations no less than we, and so he can stand by us when we are tested. We too are accompanied by the Spirit of God when we confront evil. Lent has traditionally been understood as a time to focus on resistance to evil.

### **March 13 - 2nd Sunday in Lent**

Lent is a time for renewal of our baptismal covenant. Each reading gives us a picture of our need—lack of children, lack of a homeland, enemies around—a hungry fox—and each presents us with an image of salvation—descendants, a home, citizenship, protective wings. This is one of the few Sundays in which Christ is compared to a mother.



### **March 20 - 3rd Sunday in Lent**

The readings throughout this season lead the church back to the font of baptism ("come to the waters"; "all were baptized into Moses in the clouds and in the sea") and to the celebration of the resurrection ("come to me... that you may live"). All the readings call upon the faithful to repent of sin and dedicate themselves to productive lives. God is near and will nurture our growth.

### **March 27 - 4th Sunday in Lent**

We are halfway to the feast of the Three Days, but already we share in God's banquet of mercy. We remember our baptismal robes as we celebrate the new creation that God has brought about through Christ. In Lent, even as we are still feeding the pigs and complaining in the fields, we are already in the promised land. Every Sunday, Easter comes out to meet us, like the father running out to welcome his son.

## **January Food Pantry Report**

For January we had four food Pantry Mondays, as we took the Monday after New Year off. We served:

- 167 people from 151 households
- 91 were adults, 44 youth and 32 seniors
- 88 women and 79 men
- We had 39 new people that signed up for our pantry.
- We gave out 9,010 pounds of food. That includes 3000 pounds from Catholic Charities of which 2000 pounds were diet and regular coke.



We are thankful for our 20 volunteers who make this successful every week.

God's Work Our Hands  
Submitted by Eileen Way

## Candlemas Observance, by Jean Carter



February 2nd is Candlemas, a holiday that is celebrated 40 days after Christmas. It is a blessing time of light, reflecting on when Jesus was brought to be blessed in the temple in Jerusalem and Simeon cried out, "A light to the nations" when he encountered Jesus (Luke 2:32). The Waldorf school has traditionally observed this time, and Pastor Shaun offered to lead them in a blessing time. We joined together on February 4th, with a small liturgy centered around the Blessing of the Candles. Pr. Shaun led the liturgy, and Derek Friend and Grace Tibben-Lembke assisted by providing music.

During the service there was time for the students to present a candle to be blessed for the year, and also to light a candle and offer prayers for themselves or the world or any need. It was very moving. I was very moved by the students and their reverence.

Pr. Shaun asked around for someone to provide refreshments that might reflect/introduce some Lutheran culture. I accepted! I gave us all some background information on cookies and treats provided, and made hot chocolate and provided a Stropwaffel to demonstrate how the Dutch use the gooey cookie. The Dutch put the cookie on top of a cup of steaming tea, coffee or hot chocolate. In the center of the waffle is a sticky caramel, making a tasty treat. I also provided cookies to represent England, Norway, and Scotland. We enjoyed them after the liturgy on the back porch on a cold morning.

The students were so well mannered, I was very impressed!

I feel having the Waldorf School on campus has been an asset for our church family. It was a joy to be a part of their school day.

### A Word from Outgoing President Pat Porter

Dear Faith Family,  
I wish to thank everyone for your support of my Church Presidency for the past two years. You have helped us keep the church running through the pandemic, during the search for a pastor and finding him so quickly. They say "it takes a village" to accomplish difficult projects, but I believe it takes a "Family of Faith", and that is you.  
Thank you for allowing me to serve you and our Lord.  
Blessings,  
Pat Porter

### Online Giving

On our website ([faithlutheranreno.org](http://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.

## Sunday Worship Zoom Information

Visit our website [faithlutheranreno.org](http://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 March 2nd.

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### March Food Pantry

March 7th	OPEN
March 14th	OPEN
March 21st	OPEN
March 28th	OPEN

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

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### Prayer Requests

Please send any prayer requests to the prayer team at [prayers@faithlutheranreno.org](mailto:prayers@faithlutheranreno.org)

## 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

### March Schedule

- March 1: Luke 4:1-13; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Deuteronomy 26:1-11
- March 8: Luke 13:31-35; Psalm 27; Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Philippians 3:17-4:1
- March 15: Luke 13:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; Isaiah 55:1-9; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- March 22: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32; Psalm 32; Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
- March 29: John 12:1-8; Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:4b-14

For more information contact Eileen Way at [helenflc@hotmail.com](mailto: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 March's Shared Harvest.

Bags will be assembled on March 27th at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

- Peanut Butter 28 jars
- Chili 42 cans
- Canned vegetables 42 cans
- Toothpaste Unlimited
- Toothbrushes Unlimited

# March 2022

Faith Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 1:30pm Bible Study	2 12pm (noon) Lunch Bunch 4:30pm Ash Wednesday	3	4	5
6 9:30am Worship	7 11am Food Pantry	8 1:30pm Bible Study	9 4:30pm Lent Worship/Soup	10 6pm Communications Team	11	12 10am Worship Team
13 9:30am Worship Daylight Savings Begins	14 11am Food Pantry	15 1:30pm Bible Study	16 4:30pm Lent Worship/Soup	17	18	19 10am Finance Team
20 9:30am Worship	21 11am Food Pantry 6pm Council Meeting	22 1:30pm Bible Study	23 4:30pm Lent Worship/Soup	24	25	26
27 9:30am Worship	28 11am Food Pantry	29 1:30pm Bible Study	30 4:30pm Lent Worship/Soup	31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Weekly Group Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACA; Mondays at 5:30pm</li> <li>• Sierra High Notes; Wednesdays at 6:00pm</li> <li>• 4-H Whip-stirs; 2nd Wednesday at 6:30pm</li> <li>• Scouts; Thursdays at 7:00pm</li> <li>• NARFE; 3rd Tuesday at 11:00am</li> </ul> </div>	