

Following Faith

February 2023 Newsletter



Letter from the Pastor -

2022 Pastor's Report

Taken from the 2023 Annual Report

In my sermon on Reformation Sunday I was encouraged to proclaim: "We are out of our depth. And free!" The preaching was interspersed with readings from a poem by Sarah Williams. Her refrain in the poem repeats:

MARINER, what of the deep?

This of the deep...

The power of this theme for our beloved community is still encouragingly pressed upon me. We are always swimming—working, preaching, living, ministering—in deep, beautiful, mysterious, hopeful waters. When we come up for air we have the chance to report back to one another:

FRIEND, what of the deep?

This of the deep...

For me, the Annual Report is like asking, "what of the deep?"

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LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

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Since last year's Annual Report we've welcomed 24 new members to Faith Lutheran Church! They've jumped in with commitment, devotion, and faithful work. All of these members, our consistent visitors, and our helpful staff—it's connected us to committed partners, affirming the way of Jesus together. When we ask, "God, what are you calling us to, and who will go with us?" The answer comes, "*This of the deep.*"

*We have renewed this worship house in which we gather. Our people have faithfully stepped into a loan to fund repairs on the roof, gutters, and exterior paint. And just as we took a step of faith, **folks came with renewed giving and generosity**, showing us all that the "deep" question of "how can we do this?" is met with open hearts and blessings and dedication. Our people have answered, "*This of the deep.*"

*Our church family has renewed work on teams, committees and initiatives. **Thanks to our Stewardship Team** for encouraging us, all of us, to give of our time and talents. Our teams have new company in doing the work. From communications to property to finance to worship teams and more, people have volunteered and served together in original ways.

And there's this realization about the ocean, as deep as it can be at times: it's full of life! And renewal and activity and life has been bubbling up around this church, like, "*This of the deep.*"

I've seen us living the motto—God's work; Our Hands—and this year has felt like **renewal**. I am humbled and hopeful for 2023. I believe our "deep" and "dedicated" God floats those same attributes up the surface of our lives so that we show that character and grace to each other, and to a world in need.

And here's good news: *God's work of renewal is not done with us.*

In response, let's enter this year with thanksgiving and joy, connected for the ministry—knowing this here report is simply one of many.

To the question:

Christian, what of the deep?

Christ has us all acclaiming:

This of the deep!

†Pastor Shaun O'Reilly

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings!

Thank you all for attending the 2023 Annual Meeting! I think that's the most that have ever attended. We're all set for a fascinating 2023. Hang on for the Ride! Your new 2023 Council President is Ben Pesis, Vice-President Eric Weldon, Secretary Judi Hein, Treasurer LindaLu Miller, and other members are Sonja Dresbach, Jean Carter, Amy Zimmerman, and Pastor Shaun.

Now we'll start preparing for Easter. Ash Wednesday is February 22nd. Then begins Lent. There will be a Lenten Soup Supper sign up in the narthex. Pastor will have Lenten Services at 6:30 following the soup supper. Lent is a time of penance and sacrifice when we embrace self-discipline and simplicity, and soup is one of the simplest and easiest meals to make and share. Thank you all for your support!

Peace be with you,

Eileen Way, FLC Council President (*outgoing*)



IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

Feb 5th - the 5th Sunday after Epiphany

*The Pop-up Choir Sings an Anthem, and we wrap up a four weeks "series" of sermon's referencing Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. We've been connecting his teaching to Martin Luther's description of the Holy Spirit bringing together the church. **The Spirit: Calls, Gathers, Enlightens, and Sanctifies the whole church!**



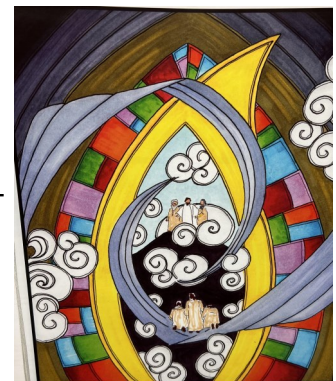
Feb 12th - 6th Sunday after Epiphany

The theme of the day is "**Original Blessing,**" stemming from the Sunday after worship conversations from the past month. It's a multi-voiced sermon. Come, see and hear and experience the blessing!

Feb 19th - Transfiguration Sunday

This festival day is a bridge Sunday from the cycle of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany that gives way to the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in a few days.

*The Pop-up Choir Sings an Anthem.



Feb 26th - First Sunday in Lent

We begin Sundays in Lent with a reflection on Jesus' temptation in the desert. It is baptism and promise from which Jesus draws strength and identity; he listens beyond the voice of temptation, showing us the way. The psalmist declares, "**Mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord,**" (Psalm 32).

FAITH IN ACTION

LENT - Lent is coming and we would like your contributions to help decorate the bulletin board in the Narthex with a cross from your home. It needs to be a size that can fit on the bulletin board with many other crosses, light enough to hang and fairly flat. Please put your name on the back so we can return it to you after Easter. We need your crosses by **Feb. 15**.

You can give them to Judi Hein or place them in a basket in the Narthex.



OUTREACH NEWS -



We are working on two new opportunities to be involved in local outreach. One will be collecting items for *Elmcrest Elementary School* during Lent, and the other, joining with *Foster the City* to learn how we can support children in foster care. Stay tuned for more information.

- Judi Hein, Outreach Chair

Shared Harvest

Items needed for the February 2023 assembly are as follows. **42 Cans of Canned Fruit, 28 Jars of Peanut Butter, and Bar Soap in unlimited quantities.** Our assembly will be on February 26th, here at Faith Lutheran in Reno. Thank you so much!



Fellowship After Worship

A gentle reminder, if you have signed up to host the coffee hour fellowship after worship services please remember that with your commitment you are responsible for the planning of what to serve, cake, cookies, fruit, assorted desserts or even appetizers. You'll also be expected to prepare the coffee with the add ins, sugars & creamers, all of which is supplied by the church. Juices, waters, lemonades etc. are your option and are not supplied by the church. Ideally if two members sign up together you can share in the duties. Set up, including cups, plates, napkins, & utensils, are provided by the church, serving and clean up including the washing, drying, and the return of used items, are also your responsibilities. Know that the service you provide to your fellow church members & guests each week is greatly appreciated and welcomed. Not to mention a cherished Lutheran Tradition.

- Sharon Scagliotti, Worship Chair

COMMUNITY NEWS & CONNECTIONS

LUNCH BUNCH - Wed, March 1st

We meet at noon in back of the church. It's a potluck so bring a dish to share.

Prayer Requests

Please send any prayer requests to
the prayer team at:
prayers@faithlutheranreno.org

Online Giving

For your convenience we offer an
online option at our website:
faithlutheranreno.org
Click on "Support Faith" at the top
right of the page.

Bible Study

Join us Tuesday afternoons, from 1:30p-2:30p, 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!

**Visit our website at faithlutheranreno.org to join Zoom
- via phone or video -**

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

February Schedule

- **Jan 31**/for 02/05: Matthew 5:13-20; Psalm 112:1-9,[10]; Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12]; Corinthians 2:1-12, [13-16]
- **Feb 7**/for 02/12: Matthew 5:21-37; Psalm 119:1-8; Deuteronomy 30:15-20; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
- **Feb 14**/for 02/19: Matthew 17:1-9; Psalm 2; Exodus 24:12-18; Peter 1:16-21
- **Feb 21**/for 02/26: Matthew 4:1-11; Psalm 32; Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19

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

Sunday Worship Live - Online via YouTube

To join with video, go to our website and follow the video link
(www.faithlutheranreno.org) or find us on youtube:
<https://www.youtube.com/@faithlutheran-reno>

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.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

On January 8th, 2023, the same day as the Baptism of our Lord, we welcomed Judith Brown, Bob Luebke, Carrie Mauldin, Todd Mauldin, Margaux Mauldin, Lee Ann Morrell, Maryann Olson, and Nancy Pugh into membership at Faith Lutheran Church through affirmation of baptism.



A little bit of Christmas magic!



The children gifted us with a Christmas carol and Pastor Shaun read a Christmas story to them.

Food Pantry - Mondays @ 11am

There will be no food pantry on Feb. 20th due to President's Day

February 2023

Faith Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12 Noon LUNCH BUNCH	2	3	4
5 9:30am Worship	6 11am Food Pantry	7 1:30p Bible Study	8	9	10	11 10am Worship Team
12 9:30am Worship	13 11am Food Pantry	14 11:45am NARFE 1:30p Bible Study	15 1pm Finance Team	16	17	18
19 9:30am Worship	20 FOOD PANTRY CLOSED 6pm Church Council PRESIDENT'S DAY	21 1:30p Bible Study	22 ASH WEDNESDAY	23	24	25
26 9:30am Worship	27 11am Food Pantry	28 1:30p Bible Study	12 Noon Finance Team	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Weekly Group Meetings in the FLC Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ ACA; Mondays at 5:30pm ◆ Sierra High Notes; Wednesdays at 6:45pm ◆ 4-H WhipStirs; 2nd Wednesday at 6:30pm ◆ Scouts; Thursdays at 7:00pm ◆ NARFE; 3rd Tuesday at 11:45am </div>		