

Following Faith

April 2023 Newsletter



Letter from the Pastor -

I recently ran into someone who used to be more active at Faith Lutheran; they were asking me how things were going and what was new with folks. And you know what I realized? I thought ... you know, it's been a while! A lot has been going on!

And it was difficult to know where to begin. Some things, I'm sure many, many, things are the same. But also, some things have changed, and lovely people have died, and lovely people have joined our church.

It's been a while and a lot has been going on. And as our liturgical year turns itself into praise and adoration and the joy that is the Easter season, the move from Lent to Easter feels to me like a lot has been going on. Our walk with Jesus through the gospels, and through His passion during Holy Week -- it is a journey about which a description can be difficult because it's hard to know where to begin about that too. And through this I'm led to

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Faith Lutheran Church
Office: 775-747-3246

2075 West Seventh Street
Reno, NV 89503

office@faithlutheranreno.org
www.faithlutheranreno.org

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

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the mystery that the life of the church is the life of Christ. "Christ has no body here but ours" the hymns say.

It is sorrow and joy. It is connection and trust and change. It is waiting on miracles and extolling the ordinary. For a pastor Holy Week and Easter is a really busy time of work! But I enter it this year knowing and cherishing the experience of this mystery - the life of the church is the life of Christ. We are it. Together. In our need, our strength, our sharing.

"How are things going?" Well, come and see. Taste and see. Enter in and share your need and strength too. Words won't do it justice; it's a story best experienced.

Friends, my faith, my life, my Easter joy is enriched by sharing it with you.

†Pastor Shaun O'Reilly



2023 FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Ben Pesis

Vice President: Eric Weldon

Secretary: Judi Hein

Treasurer: LindaLu Miller

Members at Large: Jean Carter, Sonja Dresbach,
Amy Zimmerman, and Pr. Shaun O'Reilly

COUNCIL REPORT

Below are the main updates from your Church Council this month:

1. Nevada Sage Waldorf School, currently renting classroom space from us, has contracted to buy the property across the street and to the west of here: The Greater Light Church, formerly the Episcopal church. They are moving forward with those plans, and we wanted to update you that they will fulfill the contract with us through July 15th, 2023 and then will be moved in as our across the street neighbors. We are thankful they've rented from us for these past two years and bless them and wish them well at the new property!

2. On March 18th your Church Council took extra time from their schedules to be together on a Saturday for a planning and sharing retreat. We talked about Leadership qualities, the vision of Faith Lutheran Church expressed over the years, and goals your council can focus on this year together. We are proud to serve as your council and this helps focus our efforts to maximize what we can do while elected to these positions. So here are the goals:

3. We want to better manage our Parking Lot;

3a) We are organizing work groups to clean it up, make it accessible and traversable, and redo striping. This focus is to help our most vulnerable travelers park and safely/easily access our building with ease and welcome. This will happen this month of April.

3b) We will do some leg work and then consider approaching the congregation for a longer term investment vision of redoing the lot to be looking great, welcoming for all, and a part of our property we can be proud of.

4. We want to connect our people to needs in our wider community;

We are working on communication plans to our church, organizing the raising up of team leaders and hosting events/information times. So far this year we are considering promoting connections to: Elmcrest Elementary School, Foster the City (a program which helps churches support foster families), our Shared Harvest, our Food Pantry, campus connections at UNR, and more!

5. Dreaming and planning revitalization of our church's Memorial Garden;

We are proud of our beautiful space and it has long been an asset of our congregation. So, we believe that we should be good stewards of our building, parking lot, and yard, and that our care will translate to our members, potential members, and the wider community.

Along these lines, and with the school transitioning out of our spaces, we have a new chance to make changes, invest in accessible plans, plant and envision and pull up what needs to go.

We will organize interested team members and then we plan to put some designs/proposals before the congregation. Exciting! We are motivated and we're using our gifts as a team to serve you. Please reach out to council members with any questions, needs, or ideas along the way!

IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

April 2 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Today we enter Holy Week with a service that begins with a Palm Sunday procession, tells the story of Christ's passion from the gospel of Matthew, and ends with anticipation of the unfolding of Holy Week. This week in our church stands at the center of our worship year. The sermon today is the passion story, taken from the "Cotton Patch Gospel" version of Matthew by Clarence Jordan.



April 6 – Maundy Thursday

At 7:00 p.m. we gather for worship including Holy Communion and Washing of Hands. "Maundy" is related to our word for "mandate" or "command," for tonight our readings come from Jesus' last supper and his command: "As I have loved you, love one another."

April 7 – Good Friday in Midnight Blues

At 7:00 p.m. we gather for a service of Tenebrae, the growing darkness. Tenebrae is Latin for "shadow." Our readings trace the steps of Jesus' passion from John's gospel, we extinguish candles, approaching the darkness, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, and Todd and Louis play the blues.



April 8 – Vigil of Easter

At 7:00 p.m. we gather on this night of Salvation! In this service we gather around fire, word, water, bread, and wine, proclaiming through story and song that ours is a God who continually brings life out of death. We will celebrate baptisms and affirmation of baptisms -- all as we travel from dark to light, renewed in the death and resurrection of Christ. "Christ has arisen and we shall arise!"

April 9 – Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day

8:00am - Easter Breakfast!

9:30am - Easter Worship through the new life of Christ! We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. Our chancel choir will vest, process and recess, and perform "Now the Green Blade Rises." We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.



IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH



April 16 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

Today we continue in the Season of Easter. Our gospel reading in John 20 shows the risen Christ appearing to disciples, offering them the gift of peace. Even amid our doubts and questions we experience the resurrection in our lives and community.

Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter.

April 23 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

Today we continue in the Season of Easter. In the story of disciples walking the "Road to Emmaus," Jesus appears to be with them. They know him only as a fellow traveler until they invite him in for supper and when he breaks the bread, they know it is the Christ!

From ELW hymn #495:

"Jesus, you were dead, but you rose and living,
made yourself our bread, in your goodness giving
life though we were dead."



April 30 – 4th Sunday of Easter

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. Each Sunday is spread a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

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.

FAITH IN ACTION

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 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

April Schedule

- **Apr 4**/for 04/09: Matt 28:1-10; Psalm 118:1-2,14-24; Acts 10:34-43; Col 3:1-4
 - **Apr 11**/for 04/16: John 20:19-31; Psalm 16; Acts 2:14a, 22-32; 1 Peter 1:3-9
 - **Apr 18**/for 04/23: Luke 24:13-35; Psalm 116:1-4,12-19; Acts 2:14a, 6-41;
1 Peter 1:17-23
 - **Apr 25**/for 04/30: John 10:1-10; Psalm 23; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 2:19-25
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Easter Breakfast - April 9th

We will have breakfast from 8am to 9am giving us time to cleanup before worship. Any food left will be available following worship. Egg dishes, tea breads, yogurt, ham, coffee and juice will be the Easter menu.

Blessings to all celebrating the most Holy day of our Church Year!

-Your Fellowship Team.



Join Us For Breakfast

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>

Be sure to click on the "LIVE" tab once in YouTube

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.

FAITH IN ACTION

Adult Faith Formation Forum - "Easter-Living"

Sundays in April and May at 11am in the Fireside Room

We will incorporate the gospel reading assigned for the day into these themes of living as the people who embody the Christ:

April 16 -The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20)

April 23 - Peter's Vision (Acts 10:1-17, 34-48)

April 30 - Paul's Mission (Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18)

May 7 - Gospel as Salvation (Romans 1:1-17)

May 14 - God's Love Poured Out (Romans 3:28-30, Romans 5:1-11)

May 21 - Hope of Resurrection (Romans 6:1-14)

May 28 - Pentecost Celebration!

Bring a bible and join us!

SHARED HARVEST

Items needed for the April 2023 assembly are as follows; **42 Cans of Canned Fruit, 28 Boxes of Cold Cereal, and Shampoo in unlimited quantities.** Thank you for your generosity, we are actually overstocked for this month! Our assembly will be at 1pm on April 23rd at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

-Sonja Dresbach, Shared Harvest

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the date!



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Saturday, May 6th, 5pm. - A Fellowship Event

April 2023

Faith Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:30am Worship Palm/Passion Sunday	3 11am Food Pantry	4 1:30p Bible Study	5 12 Noon Lunch Bunch	6 7pm Service Maundy Thursday	7 7pm Service Good Friday	8 7pm Service Easter Vigil
9 8am Easter Breakfast 9:30am Worship Easter Sunday	10 11am Food Pantry	11 1:30p Bible Study	12	13	14	15 10am Worship Team
16 9:30am Worship	17 11am Food Pantry 6pm Church Council Mtng	18 11:45am NARFE 1:30p Bible Study	19 12p Finance Team	20	21 12 Noon Waldorf 8th Grade Presentation in Sanctuary	22
23 9:30am Worship	24 11am Food Pantry	25 1:30p Bible Study	26	27	28	29
30 9:30am Worship	31 11am Food Pantry			<p style="text-align: center;">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 		