

# Following Faith

May Newsletter 2023

In my work as a chaplain with a hospice company I meet many patients and families and friends and loved ones who do not have a church community. And many times I grieve for them.

Each faith community is different, and I'm not trying to advocate the rose colored glasses that call all communities idyllic; but folks are telling me, a chaplain commissioned to be there on behalf of Medi-care, that they feel lonely, or isolated, or disconnected. And that feels tough. I go and try to be a friend and a spiritual companion, and that has it's own place.

But my role in those moments does not replace beloved community and centered mission. Moreover, in my own life, a community of faith has always played an important role. I know the worthy challenge of giving to Christian community, and my life is marked but the deep blessings of receiving from the community too.

And so, this Easter season, I write simply to say how thankful I am for you! I hope and pray this Eastertide is life-giving and connective for you, because it is for me. Yes, it comes around this time each year, but the sweetness of being the sheep of our loving Shepherd together ... I just don't think we can replace it with anything else we seek. And while I can't explain it all, I can overflow with thanks.

## ***I'm thankful for you!***

I am grateful God has drawn a circle around our experience that includes each other. I pray we listen close to the ways we are called to live the grace that has formed this community of faith. Together we are a blessing to Faith Lutheran Church, our neighborhood, and our world.

†Pastor Shaun O'Reilly



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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Greetings, Faith!

Apologies on the lack of a report last month, some poor planning on my part led me to miss the deadline.

So, back in March, the council had a retreat to create several goals that we are interested in pursuing as a congregation. The first goal is the resurfacing or even rebuilding of the church parking lot. For those of you unaware, we've had several members trip and fall while coming from their car to the church and it is nigh impossible for people with walkers to travel the parking lot due to the cracks and debris. We want to correct that safety and accessibility issue first and foremost.

There was also a recommendation that we consider making the parking lot look nicer. It is the first thing that guests see when they drive by or pull into the church, and an attractive parking lot puts the congregation's best foot forward. Regardless of what we do to rehabilitate the parking lot, this will be a very large undertaking, and requires a loan which will require a special congregational meeting.

However, this is just the beginning of this process, we will update you as new information warrants it. Our second goal, similar to our first, is the revitalization of the congregation's memorial garden and yard. The recent winter and the children of the Waldorf school have taken a toll on the grass, and it needs to be addressed. Just as with the parking lot, there are several possibilities with the revitalization. We could simply restore the grass, we could xeriscape the yard while keeping the memorial trees, or something else. We are putting together a committee to look at creating ideas and steering the process. Finally, we want to expand our outreach programs. The congregation has partnered with Elmcrest Elementary School and throughout Lent we donated clothing for the school children. Pastor Shaun and Judi Hein have reached out to Foster the City, a program which works to support families who foster children. Our hope is to find a family from the congregation that we would like to foster, or support a family from elsewhere.

We are also looking to raise up more leaders and volunteers to lead other programs that our congregation currently supports or new programs we might like to begin. So, that's what the congregation council is working on. As always please reach out to me, or any of the council members, if you have any questions or concerns.

- Benjamin Pesis, Council President

## **2023 FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL**

**President:** Ben Pesis

**Vice President:** Eric Weldon

**Secretary:** Judi Hein

**Treasurer:** LindaLu Miller

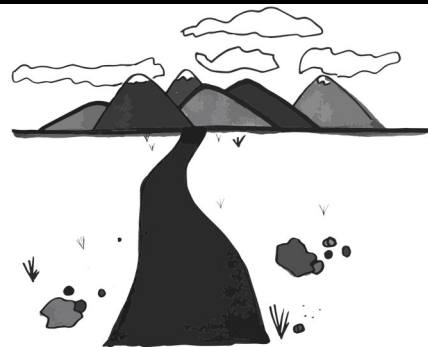
**Members at Large:** Jean Carter, Sonja Dresbach,  
Amy Zimmerman, and Pastor Shaun O'Reilly

## IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

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### May 7 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, Easter draws a circle around the Unsatisfied. Jesus announces himself as Way, Truth, and Life. Jesus demonstrates to the disciples his way of patiently loving them into connection. He takes the time for them, and he will prepare a place.

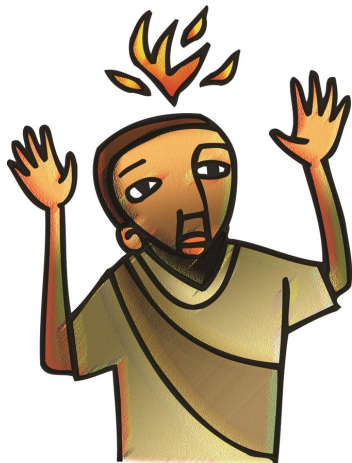
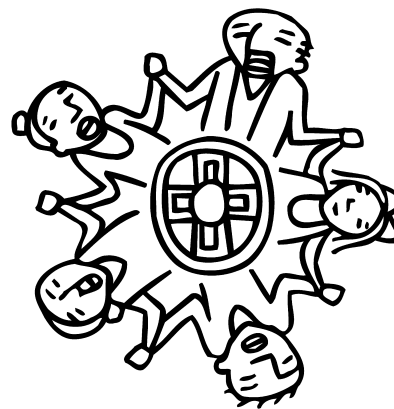


### May 14 – Sixth Sunday of Easter, Mother's Day

You are invited to bring a flower to add to the bouquet for the day. We bring them in honor of our mother's, or a motherly figure from our lives. And, our Chancel Choir performs! Easter draws a circle around the orphan; God abides with us. Today we will hear of community work that strengthens families willing to become foster families for children in need.

### May 21 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. Easter draws a circle around the Finite and inspires us to believe in something transcendent! In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.



### May 28 – Day of Pentecost

The liturgical color is red. Come to worship wearing red! The day of Pentecost is a turning point for the church -- both then and now! The Spirit lives in us and still calls us to boldness, brilliance, and to be filled with hope and love and joy! On this festival day we move/march/dance to the rhythm of the Spirit. May it be so in us and in all the church!

# CONGREGATION ACTIVITIES

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## 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](http://faithlutheranreno.org) to join Zoom  
- via phone or video -**

Dial: 1 669-900-9128 Meeting ID: 810 348 13255 Password: 430175

## May Schedule

- **May 02**/for 05/07: John 14:1-14; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Acts 7:55-60; 1 Peter 2:2-10
- **May 09**/for 05/14: John 14:15-21; Psalm 66:8-20; Acts 17:22-31; 1 Peter 3:13-22
- **May 16**/for 05/21: John 17:1-11; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; Acts 1:6-14;  
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11
- **May 23**/for 05/28: John 20:19-23; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Acts 2:1-21; 1 Cor12:3b-13
- **May 28**/for 06/04: Matt 28:16-20; Psalm 8; Genesis 1:1-2:4a; 2 Cor13:11-13

For more information contact Eileen Way at [helenflc@hotmail.com](mailto:helenflc@hotmail.com) or 775-560-3248

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## Sunday Worship Live - Online via YouTube

To join with video, go to our website and follow the video link ([www.faithlutheranreno.org](http://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.

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### Prayer Requests

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

### Online Giving

For your convenience we offer an  
online option at our website:  
**[faithlutheranreno.org](http://faithlutheranreno.org)**  
Click on "Support Faith" at the top  
right of the page.

# CONGREGATION ACTIVITIES

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## Adult Faith Formation Forum - "Easter-Living"

### **Sundays in 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:

- 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!***

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## SHARED HARVEST

Items needed for the May 2023 assembly are as follows.

**42 Cans of Chili, 28 Boxes of Mac & Cheese, 42 Sleeves of Saltine Crackers, 42 Cans of Tuna, & Powdered Laundry Soap in unlimited quantities.**

Our assembly will be @ 1pm on May 21st, at Lord of Mercy in Sparks. Thank you to all who have donated!  
-Sonja Dresbach, Shared Harvest

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## **We've Got Your Number!**

As part of the financial procedures here at Faith Lutheran Church the Financial Secretary tracks financial gifts given as regular, or special offerings, with a number assigned to each giving unit (individual or family). When the Offering Counters process the weekly offerings from the collection plate, the assigned number is verified on an offering envelope with the person's name on it. If the received check isn't in an envelope, the counter writes the member name, number, and gift amount on an envelope; the Financial Secretary utilizes these envelopes in her weekly financial audit. When the offering is placed in the collection plate in the completed envelope (noted with name and number), life is much easier in the counting room.

Some of our FLC members have recently told the Counting Team that they didn't know they even had a 'number' for their offering. So in order to streamline the counting process, we want to be sure everyone that wishes too, has envelopes into which they may place their offering - be it a check or cash. Judy Jack and Linda Zimmerman will be available on **Sunday, April 30**, during Fellowship time at the back of the church to provide envelopes and information about your 'number'. Stop by and get a small packet of envelopes, noted with your identifying number, to use for your weekly, monthly, or special offerings.

The envelopes are strictly just a tool to assist the Financial Secretary and Counters. Checks without member numbers, or not in envelopes, will absolutely still be gratefully accepted. As Treasurer LindaLu Miller frequently states, "Faith Lutheran Church is so blessed with such loving and generous financial gifts offered by members and guests". Thank you!

-Linda Zimmerman, Counter, Finance Team



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM HOLY WEEK



*Holy Week  
2023*

# OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Faith Lutheran Thanks our Many Volunteers!

Thank you to these folks for the special work this past month:

Theresa Wolken - had our outside park bench refinished. *Thanks!*

Eric Weldon - continues to give extra time to fix all sorts of things. New light bulbs are in around a lot of the building. *Thanks!*

People came out and helped sweep and re-stripe part of our parking lot in efforts to be more accessible. Big thank you to the Parking Lot Clean up Crew on 4/15. *Thanks!*

*Thank you* to Sharon Scagliotti for all her hard work leading our catechumenate process, The Way, and for making Holy Week engaging and special.

*Thanks* for the ongoing work of Judi H. to update our "Welcome Art" board in the narthex and to inspire us with art!

*Thanks!*



Join the FUN on  
**Saturday, May 6, 2023**  
**Starting at 5:30 pm**



## BINGO NIGHT AT FAITH

Serving

**\* TACOS !! \***



**\*Pork, Chicken and Beef Tacos \***

**\*Enchaladas\***

**\*Frejoles (Beans)\***

**\*Nachos\***

**\*Drinks\***

All provided by your Fellowship Team

\$5.00 for dinner and 3 cards.

Additional cards \$1 each or 3 for \$2.

(Such a deal)







**BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR  
FELLOWSHIP TEAM!**



# May 2023

Faith Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 11am Food Pantry <b>ELMCREST TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY</b>	<b>2</b> 1:30p Bible Study	<b>3</b> 12 Noon <b>Lunch Bunch!</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>CINCO DE MAYO</b>	<b>6</b>  <b>5p Taco/Bingo Night!</b>
<b>7</b> 9:30am Worship	<b>8</b> 11am Food Pantry	<b>9</b> 1:30p Bible Study	<b>10</b> <b>12p Finance Team</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>10a Back of Sanctuary is Reserved</b> <b>10am Worship Team</b>
<b>14</b> 9:30am Worship  <b>MOTHER'S DAY Flowers</b>	<b>15</b> 11am Food Pantry <b>6pm Church Council Mtng</b>	<b>16</b> 11:45am NARFE 1:30p Bible Study	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:30am Worship	<b>22</b> 11am Food Pantry	<b>23</b> 1:30p Bible Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>6p Communications Meeting</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30am Worship  <b>PENTECOST</b>	<b>29</b> No Food Pantry <b>MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY</b>	<b>30</b> 1:30p Bible Study	<b>31</b>	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Weekly Group Meetings in the FLC Space</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ ACA; Mondays at 5:30pm</li> <li>◆ Sierra High Notes; Wednesdays at 6:45pm</li> <li>◆ 4-H WhipStirs; 2nd Wednesday at 6:30pm</li> <li>◆ Scouts; Thursdays at 7:00pm</li> </ul> </div>		