

# Following Faith

September Newsletter 2023

Friends in Christ,

If you've been in worship here toward the end of summer, then you've heard readings from Romans 12 and 13. I can tell you, it has been encouraging and challenging for me and my faith.

And I wanted to share some highlights:



PHOTO CREDIT: ADOBESTOCK

*Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Here is a reminder that we are “called out ones,” blessed to live in the counter-cultural rhythms of grace that are for our health and the goodness of the world. For the good of the Truckee Meadows, even!

It's the Kingdom of God. And we need each other's encouragement to choose these life-giving ways over the easier ways of busyness, division, confirmation bias, exclusion. We are called for goodness and transformation!

Ok, sure. But what would this transformation look like?  
The fun is, we keep reading ...

*Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.*

I love this chapter of Romans! It's not empty platitudes or lofty ideas. It doesn't mean that Paul's list here is by any means easy—it's not, it's “transformational.” Yet, his encouragement is

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# LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

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approachable. It's "at hand." We would do well to dwell with it, considering it a litany of the Christian Spiritual Life:

Love. Holding fast. Mutuality. Honor. Enthusiasm. Service. Joy. Patience. Sharing. Hospitality. (And more!)

These are \*some of the things transformation looks like. But then we remember our brokenness and need, perhaps our distance from the living light we long for. What are we to do?

Here's the part of Romans 13 set for Sunday, Sept. 10th.

*Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.*

*Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*

Aha! Connection, proximity! It's here that we're blessed with God coming close, and that heals us and motivates us. Ultimately, we won't always measure up. We won't always renew our minds or lived transformed. But we won't easily give up either. We are connected to the Love that fulfills the law. It is love that is offered to us: for comfort, for power, for conviction. And so what a joy that we are encouraged to wear this around, try out "the fit," be found cloaked in grace.

"Put on the Lord Jesus Christ," Paul says.

It's through that touch and entrustment that we are transformed to love God and our neighbors. A genuine love, found in our beloved community, that brings us together in grace and forms us to be the hands and feet of God to each other. What a blessing! What a responsibility! What transformation!

And it's worth it,

†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 Pastor Shaun O'Reilly

## IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

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### September 10th - The 15th Sunday after Pentecost / Rally Day! *Congregational Meeting*

On this first Sunday after Labor Day, we launch with Rally Day! -- which brings children programming back from a summer break. Adult Faith Formation classes will continue as well. It's an important Sunday together, as your council is asking you to come and vote on if/how we can use monies we currently have to make our parking lot safer and nicer. We have put out information for weeks now, so come and converse and vote and let's move forward! Pr Shaun preaches about community and calling.



### September 17th - The 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Pr Stan Pesis preaches and presides on this Sunday. Pr Shaun, Lukas B, and Ben P are attending the 2023 Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly. In the gospel for the day, Matthew 18:21-35, Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy.



### September 24th - The 17th Sunday after Pentecost *Ministry Fair Sunday!*

Our worshipful focus this day comes from Psalm 145: The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Pr Shaun preaches about mercy and God's loving reach. The chancel choir sings! And, following worship, we invite you to a ministry fair where team leaders and committee chairs can talk to you about our Outreach and Administrative Teams, answer questions, and inspire folks to get further involved! Bring a friend and be inspired about the good work of community we create together.



### October 1 - The 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.



# 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: 97416357933    Password: 303457

### September Schedule

- ◆ **Sep 05**/for 09/10: Matt 18:15-20; Ps 119:33-40; Ezek 33:7-11; Rom 13:8-14
- ◆ **Sep 12**/for 09/17: Matt 18:21-35; Ps 103:[1-7] 8-13; Gen 50:15-21; Rom 14:1-12
- ◆ **Sep 19**/for 09/24: Matt 20:1-16; Ps 145:1-8; Jonah 3:10-4:11; Phil 1:21-30
- ◆ **Sep 26**/for 10/01: Matt 21:23-32 ; Ps 25:1-9; Ezek 18:1-4, 25-32; Phil 2:1-13

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 - "Reformation History"

***Wednesdays in September - 5:30pm in the Fireside Room***

Adult Faith Formation continues on Wednesday nights in September with a new start time, now at 5:30 - 7pm. Join us!

Continuing through September we will walk through the theology and history of the Lutheran Reformation, the Protestant Reformation, and others. Pr Stan Pesis will host the group interacting with these ideas with multi-week videos and discussions. Bring your questions, your experiences, and munch on snacks as we explore the Reformations.

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## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES SEP 10TH!

This is an invitation for your kids to join Eileen & Sharon this Sunday, September 10th, for the opening day of Children's Sunday School (after worship) for this year's lessons & activities. Our Sunday School Room has been redone and made more user friendly for teachers & students. We, Eileen Way & I, are looking forward to a great year to learn about God and all the wonderful blessings He offers us.

Preschool thru 6th grade

**MUSIC - LESSONS - CRAFTS & FUN**

***Feel Free to invite friends & family. Come & See!***

☩ Sharon Scagliotti, Worship Committee Chair



## Outreach

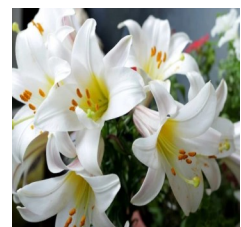
Our SEP focus will be *God's Work Our Hands* on Sept 8th. This will consist of cleaning up our property and writing letters for Bread For the World. Our OCT focus will be *Foster the City* with an interest meeting at the church on Oct 17th.

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## Remembering

Debbie Hansen, and her family give heartfelt thanks to all who joined in, attended, and supported the memorial for her daughter, Tami McMahan.

Paula Guinn, Long term member of FLC passed away last Monday morning, Sep 4th. Details forthcoming from the family.



# WELCOME (BACK) SARAH TONEY!

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Hello, Faith Lutheran!

If we have yet to meet, I am Sarah Toney and am thrilled to be on staff with Faith for three months as I wait for my first call as an ELCA pastor.

I don't remember the year I became a member of Faith. (Pat and Cheryl would know, because we joined the same year!) However, I do remember church shopping all those years ago, coming in late (as I tend to do!), sitting in the back, and trying to be anonymous. But, as you know, at Faith,

there's no such thing as being anonymous and not embraced from the beginning. I am so grateful and excited to be a part of the Faith community again! In my life at Faith, I have been on council, worked with Amy with communications and on the website, been a part of strategic planning, and served on the call committee that called Pastor Shaun.

I have not been around, because I was in a 2-year accelerated MDiv program through Luther Seminary with an internship in Washington State. I have completed all the steps to being a pastor, except that last step of being called to a congregation. Until then, I do believe I am called a "vicar." Please feel free to just call me Sarah.

So, joining Faith's staff is a coming home for me, in a way. As part of your pastoral team, I will:

- ◆ *Be available for visits and meetings. I am here to support you and your family!*
- ◆ *Guide adult faith formation and education*
- ◆ *Help Faith fundraise to meet the call of God's ministry through our church*

I am not just a "second career pastor", but more like a 5<sup>th</sup> career pastor. So, I have some years and some hopefully some experience to bring to our work together. I am so grateful for the role Faith played in helping me hear my call back to the Lutheran church and into this new life as clergy.

My husband Nate, who occasionally appears, sends his greetings! He is a physical therapist with a specialty of working with older adults to stay independent, healthy, and happy into their elderhood. We have the joy of being "dog parents" to a brood of three dogs. It's a bit nuts at our house at times, but they are adorable.

Blessings to you and your family. I look forward to being able to more present in our church during this beautiful season of fall. Please come talk with me if you have questions, ideas, or something on your mind.

# SHARING WITH EACH OTHER

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## Shared Harvest

Only **20** Cans of Chili, and **28** Jars of Peanut Butter are needed for the next assembly. Thank you so much to all of you who have donated!

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## Food Bank

We had 4 Food Pantry Mondays for August. We served 117 households having 262 people. Those served were 138 women, 122 men, 50 youth, 111 adults and 96 seniors. We gave out 5,169 pounds of food. That's a little less than 20 pounds per person.

We had a very nice lady, Irene, who is moving to Tennessee so she donated lots of food to our pantry. Mostly tuna, canned chicken, roast beef and spam. We had a nice variety of canned meats to give to our clients.

With the price of gas, housing, utilities, and groceries more people are relying on food pantries to supplement their needs.

Thank you all who volunteer to make this possible.

- Eileen Way, Food Bank Coordinator

***September 29th we'll be having our Agency Food Pantry Conference with the Food***

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## Artichoke Dip Recipe

### Ingredients

1 (14 ounce) can artichoke hearts or bottoms, drained and chopped

1 cup mayonnaise

1 cup grated Parmesan cheese

1 cup grated or shredded Colby and Cheddar cheese\*

### Directions

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C).

Mix artichoke hearts, mayonnaise, and Parmesan cheese together in a bowl until well combined. Spread mixture in a 9x13-inch baking dish.

\*Sprinkle shredded cheese on top if desired.

Bake in the preheated oven until bubbly and golden brown, about 15 to 20 minutes or in a slow cooker/crockpot for 1 hour on high.

Source <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/14834/simple-artichoke-dip/>

-Shared by Amy Zimmerman,

Fellowship, Communication and Church Council



# September 2023

Faith Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30am Worship	4 <b>NO FOOD PANTRY</b> 	5 1:30pm Bible Study	6 <b>NO LUNCH BUNCH</b> 5:30-7pm CLASS, THE REFORMATIONS	7	8	9 <b>10a Worship Team</b>
10 9:30am Worship	11 11am Food Pantry	12 <b>12p Finance Team Meeting</b> 1:30pm Bible Study	13 5:30-7pm CLASS, THE REFORMATIONS	14	15	16
					<b>SYNOD CONF/SEP 15th - 17th</b>	
17 9:30am Worship	18 11am Food Pantry <b>6pm Council Mtng</b>	19 <b>11:45a NARFE</b> 1:30pm Bible Study	20 5:30-7pm CLASS, THE REFORMATIONS	21	22	23
<b>SYNOD CONF</b>						
24 9:30am Worship	25 11am Food Pantry	26 1:30pm Bible Study	27 5:30-7p CLASS, THE REFORMATIONS	28	29	30
				<p><b>Weekly Group Meetings in the FLC Space</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ ACA; Mondays at 5:30pm-4-H</li> <li>◆ WhipStirs; 2nd Wednesday at 6:30pm</li> <li>◆ Scouts; Thursdays at 7:00pm</li> </ul>		