

Following Faith

March Newsletter 2024



Friends of Faith,
I hope you are finding yourself encouraged this Lent. I really appreciate the rhythms of the church year, and especially these forty days leading to Holy Week and Easter. Each Sunday we read scriptures and open ourselves to ancient connections—the ways both scripture and Jesus (the Word) ring true for us. And then we also have the liturgy and the church seasons that ring in and around us. So, now, the purple is ringing; the bread that is our sustenance in the wilderness is printed on the altar cloth, ringing; and the cross is ringing.

Do you have many purple things at home or around your life? I don't think I do. At least, not like the Lenten purple in our sanctuary.

So maybe it's that the color is stark and, in some sense, surprising to me. I find this surprise important and good for me in Lent. There is a change of speed, just like we can feel the winter days expanding in length, longing for spring.

The surprise of the colors, the connection to changes in the weather and physical seasons, the growing sense that we—collectively—are headed toward something ... you can feel it all in Lent.

So we have these weeks left in March to walk with our Lord on this journey. Open yourself to the challenge and blessing it is to walk this Lenten way. There is much to pray for, and there is much comforting in readings and prayers. Try them out!

Reach out to us for companionship on the way — we're sharing soup and song on Wednesdays and respite worship each Sunday.

May God awaken in you deeper connection and fidelity and intention to pick up your cross and follow the way of Love,

+Pastor Shaun

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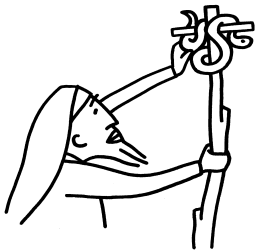
IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

March 3rd - Third Sunday in Lent

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods.



March 10th - Fourth Sunday in Lent



In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

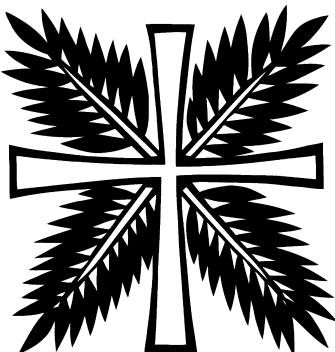
Choir Sings an Anthem: "Breathe on Us"

March 17th - Fifth Sunday in Lent

Happy St. Patrick's Day! We'll sing Irish tunes and use Irish blessings. In our readings, God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's love and truth into our hearts.



March 24th - Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion



Our worship begins with procession of Palms and then leads to the Passion story of our Lord Jesus. The choir sings a Cantata to lead us through our stories and music and song. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people.

We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

March 28th– Maundy Thursday

At 6:00 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." We are drawn into this moment as disciples on this night.



March 29th– Good Friday in Midnight Blues

At 6:00 p.m. we gather for a service of Tenebrae, the growing darkness. Tenebrae is Latin for "shadow," and this service is in mostly dark and is contemplative. We read John's passion story, we extinguish candles, approaching the darkness, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, and Todd Mauldin plays the blues.

March 31st

Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Sunday

Easter Worship through the new life of Christ! Christ is risen! God has swallowed up death forever. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.



8:00 a.m. - Easter Brunch! - before 9:30 Worship Service

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

On Sunday, Feb 25th, your 2024 council was installed. The current members are:

President: Sonja Dresbach

Vice President: Eric Weldon

Secretary: Ben Pesis

Treasurer: LindaLu Miller

Council Members at Large: Jean Carter, Matthew Rhiley (New), Amy Zimmerman, and Pastor Shaun O'Reilly.

I want to thank Judi Hein for her 2 year term on the council. She was an asset with her leadership.

Your council has answered the call to be leaders of the church, representing you and making decisions to move us forward. We will be setting goals for the year and I would like to ask you for any ideas or questions you may have. Please feel free to email me at **flcangels@aol.com** or write them down and put in my mail box in the Narthex and I will take them to our council meeting for discussion.

Thank you to those who have filled out a *Time and Talent* sheet expressing your desire to volunteering your time with our Faith community. If you have not yet filled one out, please do so as soon as you can. The team leaders have already begun planning with their teams for the year. If you already volunteer, please fill out a sheet and let us know if you plan to continue what you were doing and/or if you plan to try something new. God gives us talents and calls us to reach our passions and share His love and grace. Have you listened to His call? Be part of the life of the church by offering your time and talent.

Thank you for all you are already doing. You are part of our family of Faith and we appreciate all you do.

Respectfully submitted,
Sonja Dresbach, Council President



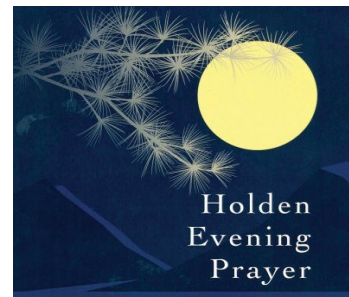
COMMUNITY WORSHIP AND GATHERINGS

Each Wednesday in Lent, Feb. 21 - March 20



5:30pm - Lenten Soup Supper

6pm - Worship and Holden Evening Prayer



Adult Forum in February and March

“GOD’S PROVISIONS & THE LENTEN LECTIONARY”

In our Adult Forum, held Sundays after worship, during these weeks in Lent we will be looking at “God’s Provisions and the Lenten Lectionary.” We will use the readings of each week to explore the activity of God, especially focused on a theme of God’s steadfast love in a metaphor of “God’s Provisions.” So join us to delve deeper into study of the readings that informs our Lenten walk with Christ and each other.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School for Faith Lutheran Church this summer 2024? This is a question your worship team is exploring. A project of this size needs many hands in many different areas to be successful, so we first come to you, the congregation, to see if this is a ministry you could support whether you would be interested in participating. An opportunity to share your opinion with us will be coming soon, but until then we ask you to prayerfully consider if this outreach ministry would be viable for FLC. More questions? Give me a call or talk to me on Sundays.

✠ Sharon Scagliotti,
Worship Committee Chair



SHARING WITH EACH OTHER

SATURDAY FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

A New Session Began on Saturday, Feb. 17th!

Topic: "Why the Church Year?"

Join us for fun & learning, questions, wonderings, and of course, treats!

All are welcome and encouraged! Led by Stan Pesis and Elizabeth King.

SATURDAY'S @ 1PM



SHARED HARVEST

Every month 6 Lutheran churches join in collecting and distributing 84 bags of groceries to households. In December two organizations, Thrivent and Reno Sunrise Rotary, donated extra food for Christmas. Grants from Thrivent for hams and Rotary for applesauce and sweet potatoes were added to the bags. 23 people helped fill the bags to be delivered. Thank you to everyone who has brought in food for distribution every month. Your donations are very much appreciated by all the families you help feed.

-Going forward, please only bring food that is requested for Shared Harvest.

We need only 30 cans of **Chili**, and **toothbrushes/toothpaste** in unlimited quantities, for the month of March. Packing will be on **Sun, Mar 24th, 1pm @ Good Shepherd, Reno.**

FOOD BANK CLOSED INDEFINITELY

Faith Lutheran has provided food for people in need for several years. Eileen Way has lead Food Pantry volunteers who helped pick up food, bag it and have it ready for pickup every week. Over the years food has been received from Food Bank of Northern Nevada and Catholic Charities.

This past year illness has caused the reevaluation for our pantry. Eileen is no longer able to manage the pantry. After much discussion and prayer, the church council has decided to close the pantry indefinitely.

If anyone is interested in managing the program at a later date, please contact a council member. Someone would need to be willing to oversee the project, see that paperwork is done, make arrangements for food pickup, keep everything in order and lead volunteers. It could be renegotiated to be done monthly, rather than weekly, and any day of the week is workable.

Thank you, Eileen, for all your work keeping the pantry open. You have done a great job serving others and your work has been appreciated by many! Thank you also to all your volunteers.

CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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

March Schedule

- ♦ **Feb 27/** for 03/03: John 2:13-23; Ps 19; Exod 20: 1-17; 1 Cor 1:18-25
- ♦ **Mar 05/** for 03/10: John 3:14-21; Ps 107:1-3, 17-22; Num 21:4-9; Eph 2:1-10
- ♦ **Mar 12/** for 03/17: John 12:20-33; Ps 51:1-12; Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:5-10
- ♦ **Mar 19/** for 03/24: Mark 14:1- 15:47; Ps 31:9-16; Isa 50:4-9a; Phil 2:5-11
- ♦ **Mar 26/** for 03/31: Mark 16:1- 8; Ps 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43; 1 Cor 15:1-11

For more information contact the office at office@faithlutheranreno.org or call 775.747-3246

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.

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.

March 2024

Faith Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 4pm Waldorf Class Play & Potluck	2 FAITH FORMATION CLASS CANCELED
3 9:30am Worship	4	5 1:30pm Bible Study	6 LUNCH BUNCH 5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper 6pm Lenten Evening Service	7	8	9 10am Worship Team 1PM FAITH FORMATION CLASS
10 9:30am Worship DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS	11	12 1:30pm Bible Study	13 12pm Finance Mtng 5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper 6pm Lenten Evening Service	14	15	16 1PM FAITH FORMATION CLASS
17 9:30am Worship 	18 6pm Council Mtng	19 11:45a NARFE 1:30pm Bible Study	20 5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper 6pm Lenten Evening Service	21	22	23 1PM FAITH FORMATION CLASS
24 PALM SUNDAY 9:30am Worship	25	26 1:30pm Bible Study	27	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY 6PM EVENING SVC	29 GOOD FRIDAY 6PM EVENING SVC	30 FAITH FORMATION CLASS CANCELED
31 EASTER SUNDAY 8:30am Brunch 9:30am Worship	Weekly Group Meetings in the FLC Space ♦ ACA; Mondays at 5:30pm4-H ♦ WhipStirs; 2nd Wednesday at 6:30pm ♦ Scouts; Thursdays at 7:00pm					