

Following Faith

February Newsletter 2024



Friends of Faith-

Both my daughters and I had our birthdays this past week. Yay! We're excited.

And I'm also contemplating it all, too. Here we go, another time around the sun. Here we are in these bodies—growing, aging, changing, surviving, thriving. It's all getting built up and falling apart, all the time and all at once.

I'm in my forties, so I know this "falling apart" a bit more and more. :)

And I'm thinking about bodies and our growth and change because of the Psalm in the lectionary this week. Psalm 147 has all these action verbs, on the part of God, and on our behalf.

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God is Building up, Gathering, Healing, Binding up, Lifting, Covering, Preparing, Making to grow, Delighting.

These are the actions of God calling exiled people to wholeness and to new life again. It may look different than before, but the psalm is singing that God is faithful and good to keep pouring out steadfast love and to build and rebuild.

In my sermon on the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany I take this image and explore it as God-as-Composter with us. Because yes, though we don't want to admit it and though our culture constantly promotes thinking that sees us as "escaping" decay in our bodies, this is an explicit truth of our creatureliness:

We are dust. And to dust we shall return.

Ah, are you seeing the connection to the coming of Lent with us Ash Wednesday, this year on Feb. 14th? Good for you!

And yes, God will be there when we admit the truth of what we are. When we encounter our creatureliness we, still, encounter God too. It is a God who can turn over the compost. The compost is real. And the faithfulness of God is real too.

Christian faithfulness has at the center of its "compost pile" the faithfulness of Jesus. Scandalous and beautiful, the body of Christ has undergone the same death that we face, and it's Jesus' faithfulness that becomes our strength to endure the process of waiting, decomposing, transforming, becoming new life for the world.

This is the death and life—God turning over the compost pile—in our sacraments. In communion, "Body of Christ given for you." And in baptism, "By water and the word we are delivered from death and raised up." And it is the real death and life we experience in our season of Lent, a season of our humble creatureliness.

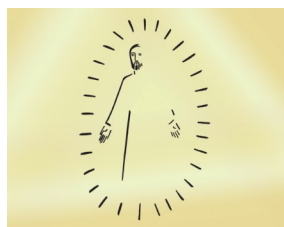
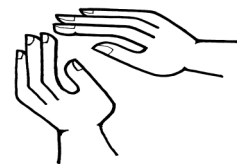
So we are transformed, composted, to be this body together, redeemed for the redemption of the world. Thanks be to our God, always Building up, Gathering, Healing, Binding up, Lifting, Covering, Preparing, Making to grow, and Delighting.

Best birthday gift ever,
†Pastor Shaun O'Reilly

IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

February 4th - 5th Sunday after Epiphany

A day of readings, songs, healing prayer, and communion. We pray for God's light and air to expose our sin and need and raise us to transformed life.



February 11th - Transfiguration of Our Lord

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. Those closest to Jesus hear his father proclaim, "This is my beloved" and Light surrounds us.

February 14th - Ash Wednesday

On Ash Wednesday we begin our 40 day journey toward Easter with fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die & return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ and seek to be Christ's humble servants.



12pm - Drive Thru Ashes & Blessing
6pm - Worship & Holy Communion

February 18th - First Sunday in Lent

This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism.



February 25th - Second Sunday in Lent

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the

ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life.



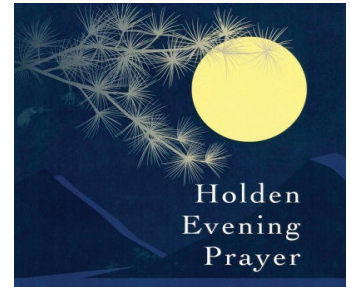
COMMUNITY WORSHIP AND GATHERINGS

Each Wednesday in Lent, Feb. 21 - March 20



5:30pm - Lenten Soup Supper

6pm - Worship with Holy Communion 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.

Feb 4th - yearning for healing: Mark 1:29-39

- Everyone is searching. Everything is found. Because Jesus goes before us, we are welcomed into Good News life that ministers to all.

Feb 11th - the Transfiguration: Mark 9:2-9

- Who will recognize Jesus? Who will follow where he leads?

Feb 18th - 1st Sunday in Lent: Mark 1:9-15, Genesis 9:8-17

- What does it mean to be baptized and affirm a covenant with God? How does God help us in our weakness and give us the “Yes” of our faith?

Feb 25th - 2nd Sunday in Lent: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

- Even when we fall (like Abraham), God does not abandon the covenant. God stays. Abraham is our key to understanding the character of God.

CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

NOTES FROM YOUR WORSHIP TEAM

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Do you love our worship services and are looking for a way to serve your church? Your worship team has THREE openings we'd like to fill to replace, Sarah Toney, as she moves on to her call in Washington; Eileen Way, who is still recovering from her injuries sustained last fall; and, sadly, Pat McDuffie, who recently passed.

We meet once a month on the 2nd Saturday of the month for 1 1/2 - 2 hours. We oversee Altar Guild, Ushers/Greeters, Music/Musicians, and Service Protocols which include special services and Sanctuary Improvements related to worship. We invite you to think and prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve FLC. If the Spirit so moves you, please contact me or the church office asap at the information below. Our next meeting is **Saturday, February 10th, at 10:00am.**

VBS

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.

Sunday School Substitute Teacher(s) Needed!

On March 10 - March 31 I will be going to Italy for a vacation which will include Rome, Florence, & Venice. During my time away I need a volunteer(s) to substitute as teacher(s) for our FLC kids' Sunday School on **March 10th, 17th, and 24th.** If there are more than one of you interested you can alternate Sundays. If you can fill in for me please let me know asap. Thank you in advance for serving our FLC kids. Blessings.

Call or text Sharon Scagliotti
(916) 230- 4530 or email the office at:
office@faithlutheranreno.org

✕ Sharon Scagliotti,
Worship Committee Chair



SHARING WITH EACH OTHER

SATURDAY FAITH FORMATION CLASSES RETURN!

Beginning on Saturday, Feb. 17th @ 1pm *

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.

***Will continue Saturdays at 1pm**

SHARED HARVEST

Items needed for this month's assembly are; 28 regular boxes of **Cold Cereal**, 28 regular jars of **Peanut Butter**, 42 Cans of **Vegetables**, 42 Packets of **Powdered Milk**, and **Bar Soap** in unlimited quantities. Packing will be on Feb 25th, 1pm, @ St Luke's in Reno. Thank you so much for your support!

Recipes Wanted!



Since Faith Lutheran is blessed with so many delicious treats and dishes for potlucks or refreshments at church, the Fellowship committee would love to publish a cookbook which contains your tasty and delightful recipes. We are asking congregants to participate by providing recipes for your favorite dishes and desserts so a special Faith Lutheran Church cookbook can be prepared.

Please submit your recipes to Amy Zimmerman via the email below.

If you wish to include a little 'back story' with your recipe, ex., *"This dish was often served by the Ladies Aid at my Lutheran Church in northern Minnesota when I was a kid..."* that would be fun, too. We would like your recipes by **March 20th, 2024**.

Contact Amy at amyzimmerman818@gmail.com if you have additional questions.

FOOD BANK

With my recent absence, the Food Bank held at Faith Lutheran Church is taking a temporary respite. The Food Bank will not be held for the months of Jan and Feb 2024. The other locations will help to pick up the shortage during this especially difficult time for. Bless all of you who have participated, some for many years!

-Eileen Way, Food Bank Director

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

February Schedule

- ◆ **Jan 30**/for 02/04: Mark 1:29-39; Ps 147:1-11, 20c; Isaiah 40:21-30; 1 Cor 9:16-23
- ◆ **Feb 06**/for 02/11: Mark 9:2-9; Ps 50:1-6, 20c; 2 Kings 2:1-12; 2 Cor 4:3-6
- ◆ **Feb 13**/for 02/18: Mark 1:9-15; Ps 25:1-10, 20c; Gen 9:8-17; 1 Peter 3:18-22
- ◆ **Feb 20**/for 02/25: Mark 8:31-38; Ps 22:23-31, 20c; Gen 17:1-, 15-16; Rom 4:13-25

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.

February 2024

Faith Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:30am Worship <i>5 Epiphany</i>	NO FOOD PANTRY	6 1:30pm Bible Study	7 LUNCH BUNCH <i>with Special Event!</i>	8	9	10 10a Worship Team 1p Kids' Craft Time
11 9:30am Worship <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i>	NO FOOD PANTRY	13 1:30pm Bible Study	14 12pm Finance Mtng Noon - Drive Thru Ashes and Blessing 6pm - Worship with Holy Communion ASH WEDNESDAY	15	16	17 1PM FAITH FORMATION CLASS RETURNS! "Why the Church Year?"
18 9:30am Worship LENT	19 NO FOOD PANTRY 6pm Council Mtng 	20 11:45a NARFE 1:30pm Bible Study	21 5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper 6pm Lenten Evening Service	22	23	24 1PM FAITH FORMATION CLASS "Why the Church Year?"
25 9:30am Worship	NO FOOD PANTRY	27 1:30pm Bible Study	28 5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper 6pm Lenten Evening Service	29	<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 ◆ 4-H WhipStirs; 2nd Wednesday at 6:30pm ◆ Scouts; Thursdays at 7:00pm </div>	