

# Following Faith

May Newsletter 2024

Family of Faith, Listen for God's call.

Have you ever heard God speak to you? Are you listening for His voice? God is everywhere. Sometimes it is a whisper coming in the quiet of the day, or maybe in a dream. Perhaps a vision of something to come. Or a thought of a decision to be made. A voice in your mind and a feeling in your heart. A soft breeze to calm our minds and birds to sing and put joy in our hearts.

Years ago, my husband and I were sitting in a doctor's office waiting for the doctor to come in and let us know how my husband's cancer treatment was doing. We had prayed along with

many others for a cure. As we sat in the quiet there, I saw a vision of a white board and a hand waved across it and cleared it off. I told Neil about it and I felt a peace that all would be well. Shortly after, the doctor came in and told us the treatment had worked and his cancer was in remission. God had answered our prayers and gave us a preview of what was to come.

I talk to God a lot, sometimes I am impatient and I don't always wait for His answer. Or I don't want to listen to the answer because He doesn't always answer the way I want. Do you wait for His answer? Do you listen to what he calls you to do? Sometimes He speaks to us directly. He calls us to service in His name. Helping a neighbor or a stranger that needs help. Donating clothing for those in need. Helping serve food to the hungry. Or donating food to help those who struggle. Volunteering in the community, or in our own church. Giving witness to His love.

When God calls, listen. Listen to what He is calling you to. Listen to what he has in store for your life. Following His direction can bring joy and peace.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sonja Dresbach, Council President

Message  
from the  
President

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# IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

Our Easter theme has been: **I am the vine, you are the Branches.**

And each Sunday we highlight: what kind of branches are we, connected to this vine?

## People of Easter are Branches!

### May 5th - 6th Sunday of Easter **Branches of Promise**

In John 15 Christ calls the disciples “friends.” On this, Catholic priest John J. O’Brien writes, *“The Spirit is shaping an affective and apostolic heart in all of us. Let us listen to that Spirit-song well and learn its melody. This song is a song of presence, of being with the other without calculation. We are not slaves; we are not members of Christ based on hierarchies of status or greater or lesser rank. We are lettered and unlettered, male and female, newborn and long-born, friends. Such friendship in Christ makes us companions at the Lord’s table. There is scandal in this: it goes against the competition models we have learned.”*



### May 12th - 7th Sunday of Easter **Branches of Prayer and Mother’s Day**

We invite you to bring a flower that we add to a table in honor of mothers and mother-figures in our lives. The gospel for Easter’s seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John’s gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus’ desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is mutual abiding, interpenetrating life, mutual love, and joy. This oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit!

### May 19th - **Festival of Pentecost!**

Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God’s mercy to places we least expect it—to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ’s love with the world.



### May 26th - **Holy Trinity Sunday**

When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul’s words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

## NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL

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### ONCE UPON A TIME IN JAPAN

Katie, Zachary, and I recently returned from a once in a lifetime trip to the beautiful country of Japan. We were greeted by a warm and friendly people to a place that seemed, at times to be too good to be true. Although Mother Nature schemed to dampen our spirits with a few rain-filled days, the majesty of the islands could not be diminished. We saw many wonderful things: parks, gardens, temples, and architecture both ancient and new, that filled us with awe. We travelled from Tokyo to Kyoto to Hiroshima and many spots in between. In all of those places we witnessed something close to miraculous. Japan is amazingly clean despite a lack of garbage cans. Japan is quiet and polite despite millions of people and visitors. Japan is a country rooted in its past, but boldly embraces its unknown future. I often asked myself "How do the Japanese do this?" At long last it occurred to me that every member of Japanese society is a *steward* of their local prefects, town, and the country as a whole! Everybody participates in ways large and small. The people police their own trash by adopting a "pack it in/pack it out" mentality. They treat each other with courtesy and respect by speaking in low tones on crowded city buses or silencing their phones on the train. They wait in respectful cues for public transportation and set aside places for the elderly and the infirmed. Collectively, the citizens of Japan make it a nice place, even a welcoming place, to visit through their day-to-day duties and attitudes.

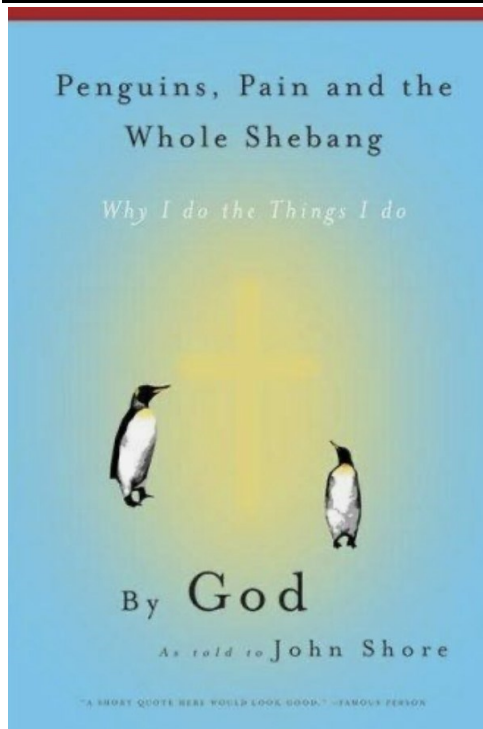
It occurs to me that that Faith Lutheran and our church life is no different. Some people perform large roles within the church. They are called by the Spirit to do so as a service to both God and the church. Some people perform small services such as greeting a friend at the door, lighting the candles before service, or simply passing the peace with a warm handshake and a smile. Some write cards of thanks or get well, and some say "Welcome" to a new visitor. Sometimes it's a simple hug or "How are you doing?" And sometimes it can be doing the best we can with a new hymn. As Christians, we are called to serve God and each other and everybody has a part to play as we are all *stewards* of Faith Lutheran Church. That is essence of stewardship and it is also the secret of our success as a community. Together, we of Faith Lutheran are on a journey towards a future full of unknowns; however, we have the advantage of each other and we have the best guide the universe can provide, Christ Jesus.



*Kami no heiwa (God's peace),*

Eric Weldon, Council Vice President

# FAITH FORMATION CLASSES



## ADULT FORUM

At 11am on Sundays, join us for learning and discussion following worship. It's our Adult Forum.

For May we will continue to explore John Shore's book as well as Lutheran Responses to our vital questions about God, ourselves, and our world. The discussion is rich, whether you have the book or not! Join us in the Fireside Room on Sundays at 11am.

This is an engaging way into discussions about God and the world, our biggest questions and wonderings, and our journey to gratefulness for God's calling to us!

You can shop and find the book\*, or see Pr. Shaun and reserve a copy through him.

## SATURDAY FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

### Topic: "Why the Church Year?"

We converse using a presentation by Walter Bouman (he was a Professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio and had experience in multiple disciplines). The presentation, "Why the Church Year?" is 10 brief reflections that address the story, theological meaning and importance of each of our church seasons. The class would not be the same if we did not provide an opportunity to explore, through your questions and comments, what you've encountered from the video. We believe you will gain new insight about the church seasons and about worship from what you see and hear.

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**



# OUTREACH

The Outreach Team is excited about plans this month to work with our Partner in Education, Elmcrest Elementary School. We've planned three fun events and would love volunteers to help make them successful!

- ◆ Our first event will be **May 7th**, Teacher Appreciation Week. We are planning to provide lunch to the staff to thank them for all their hard work and dedication to teaching.
- ◆ The second event will be **May 16th**, during Elmcrest's annual Open House. We'll have a table so we can talk with students and parents, tell them about Faith Lutheran, and invite them to come visit our church.
- ◆ The third event will be **May 31st**, a Color Run, (ask Judi for details).



If you are interested in joining us, please contact Judi Hein at [judihein@gmail.com](mailto:judihein@gmail.com)



## SHARED HARVEST

For the month of May we need 56 Cans of **Canned Vegetables**, 42 Cans of **Chili**, 42 Sleeves of **Saltine Crackers**, 42 Cans of **Tuna**, and **Laundry Detergent** in unlimited quantities. Packing will be on Sun, May 19th, 1pm @ Lord of Mercy, Sparks.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

### Big Heart Gardens Vacation Bible School

Faith Lutheran - *Where God's Fruit Grows*

**July 8 - 12** ☺☺ **3yrs - 12 yrs**

**Hey Kids!** Come be a part of a fun-filled week of learning about God's Fruitful Gardens through worship, music, lessons, games, food & crafts.

**Hey Adults!** You too can join in this ministry, we need your time & talents to make this week a success, especially teachers, crafters & helpers both behind the scenes and during the week. Get involved to serve our Lord in this fun faith filled week. Call, Text, or Talk to Pr Shaun or call Sharon Scagliotti at 916-230- 4530 for more information on how you can help!



# CONGREGATION ACTIVITIES

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## TACO BINGO NIGHT!

**Saturday, May 4**

Dinner begins at 4pm and includes a TACO BAR, rice and beans, AND make your own NACHOS!

Bingo starts after dinner

\$10.00 per person for dinner

\$1.00 each for bingo cards



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### Notes from your Worship Team -

**May 12th**, Mother's Day. Bring a flower to place in the sanctuary to honor your mother or a woman who is/was a motherly spirit in your life.



**May 19th**, Pentecost, remember to wear **RED** in remembrance of the day.

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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.

**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

### May Schedule

- ◆ **May 07** for 05/12: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26, Ps 1; 1John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19
  - ◆ **May 14** for 05/19: Acts 2:1-21; Ps 104:24-34, 35b; Rom 8:22-27; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15
  - ◆ **May 21** for 05/26: Isaiah 6:1-8; Ps 29; Rom 8:12-17; John 3:1-17
  - ◆ **May 28** for 06/02: Deut 5:12-15; Ps 81:1-10; 2Cor 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-36F
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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.

# HAPPY MEMORIES

## SCENES FROM THE "HUNT"



## OUR BLESSING BAGS



*Thank you  
for all your  
help -  
helping our  
community!*



### **2024 FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL**

**President:** Sonja Dresbach

**Vice President:** Eric Weldon




**Secretary:** Benjamin Pesis

**Treasurer:** LindaLu Miller

**Members at Large:** Jean Carter, Matthew Rhiley,

# May 2024

## Faith Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 9:30am Worship 11am Adult Forum 11am Kids Place	6 MAY is Asian/Pacific Islander Month	7 1:30pm Bible Study	8 12pm Finance Mtng	9	10	11 8:30am DAUGHTERS OF NORWAY 10am Worship Team 1PM FAITH FORMATION CLASS
CINCO de MAYO 						
12 9:30am Worship 11am Adult Forum 11am Kids Place <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b> 	13 <b>6pm Council            Mtng</b>	14 1:30pm Bible Study	15	16	17	18 1pm FAITH FORMATION CLASS
19 9:30am Worship 11am Adult Forum 11am Kids Place <b>PENTECOST</b>	20	21 <b>11:45am NARFE</b> 1:30pm Bible Study	22	23	24	25 1pm FAITH FORMATION CLASS
26 9:30am Worship 11am Adult Forum 11am Kids Place <b>HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY</b>	27 	28 1:30pm Bible Study	29	30	31	

**Weekly Group Meetings in the FLC Space**

- ◆ ACA: Mondays at 5:30pm-4-H
- ◆ WhipStirs: 2nd Wednesday at 6:30pm
- ◆ Scouts: Thursdays at 7:00pm