

# Following Faith

July Newsletter 2024



Friends of Faith,

Your pastor and two delegates have returned from our regional denominational gathering — the Synod Assembly — in Fresno, California!

Together we were with roughly 170 other ELCA congregations and their representatives from Northern Nevada and Northern California. Our group was table mates early on (and continued throughout the weekend) with friendly folks from Mt Zion Lutheran Church in Yreka, California. They were a wild and fun group, and we chatted and told our stories to each other. I know Becky and Carrie and I will remember Pastor Lori and we'll keep their church in our prayers.

This gathering involved voting on members to attend the Churchwide Assembly coming up in Phoenix next year, hearing reports from the Bishop, the Vice President, the Treasurer and various teams, and doing other business of the church. The "business" side of things was mild this year. In fact, the budget for the Synod is going through so many changes that there is special meeting this September (the three of us will be voting again) so that time can be devoted just to making hard/good decisions about it.

One of the highlights for me was the time they took thanking various Assistants for their help getting us through the past few years, and welcoming the new Bishop's staff. Not only am I excited about the passion and work of new Bishop Jeff, but also the dedication of our Vice President — the very articulate Simon Wong—, and the new members of the Bishop's staff: Amy, Charlane, Megan, Brandon, and others.

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I think the assembly did a great job of praying for both the outgoing and incoming folks, and giving thanks for work that has been done. For that, I'm grateful and inspired. They were all telling the story of ministry together—what has happened and what's to come.

I'm so grateful that Becky and Carrie went and represented Faith Lutheran there. Here are some responses as to what stood out to them:

**From Becky Sharp:**

*My Dear Church Family, what a whirlwind, joyful trip the Synod meeting was! There were many moments that touched my heart and soul, but none more so than the storyteller Pastor Rebecca Anderson. She began by telling her own stories with complete honesty, foreclosures, and gusto. She was humorous, animated, and so full of the Spirit that she glowed. She encouraged others to share their stories, and share they did. They shared stories that could have been considered tragic, but they were infused with humor, and ended with hope. Shipwrecks, grieving parents who found hope in organ donors, a man stranded in a foreign country, feeling hopeless, saved by friends. A young couple who tried multiple times to have a baby, but failed over and over... they did not give up hope and neither did our Lord because they have a healthy little girl now.*

*Pastor Rebecca gave the sermon on Sunday and she preached about Joy! True Joy and she emanated that joy, and it felt almost tangible. Thank you Pastor Rebecca for the inspirational and thank you Faith for sending us as advocates of this church.*

**From Carrie Mauldin:**

*I'd like to thank Faith for letting me go. It was a wonderful time. It was uplifting to see so many smiling Lutherans together at the Synod Assembly. I attended talks by the San Francisco Night Ministry and loved the Storytelling keynote; both were inspiring and moving. I loved seeing the Women of the ELCA (aka WELCA) doing coffee and cookies. On September 6 thru the 8, WELCA is hosting a retreat at Old Oak Ranch in Sonoma, CA, and I'm sure they would welcome any ladies who would like to attend from our congregation. It was a warm reminder of all the fun I used to have in WELCA. It's a great organization.*

WE are a branch of the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA, together, and there is so much to be thankful for and so much hope to have for our future! It may be smaller than the past, it may look different than ministry in the past, but it is, continually, the gifts of God for the people of God.

And so we move forward as those people—of hope, passion, and joy. And with comrades!

I'm grateful for you, and especially for Becky and Carrie who made time and gave energy to represent Faith Lutheran Reno so well.

What a community!

†Pastor Shaun O'Reilly

## IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

### July 7th - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Jesus does great deeds of power and gives his disciples authority over evil powers. In that light, Argentinian theologian Beatriz Melano Couch writes, *“If we are going to take very seriously the message of the Bible—the release of captives, liberty to the oppressed; if we are going to try to obey the word of the prophets and of Jesus Christ and the testimony of the early church—we are going to run into trouble. We are going to be involved in Christ’s work, which is world-judging, world-condemning, world-transforming. This may bring to us not only unpopularity among our friends, family, and churches, but probably some things that are more costly. So, we should not enter into discipleship unless we are willing to pay the price, to pay the cost with the spirit of the joy which is grounded on the promises of God himself. Not only on the promises written in the Bible, but the promises of many Christians “written” in their experience of a living hope which is born from an encounter with a living God and with a whole host of witnesses in the Christian community through the centuries and around the world today.*

[Women and the Word: Sermons (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1978), 122.]



### July 14th - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, *Chancel Choir Sings!*

When Amos reports his vision of God judging Israel for its mistreatment of the poor, he becomes a threat to the power of the priests and the king. John the Baptist also speaks truth to power, and Herod has him killed. In Herod’s fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them, and to proclaim God’s saving love.

### July 21st - Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Stan Pesis preaches and presides. Mark’s gospel makes clear how great is the press of the crowd, with its countless needs to be met, on Jesus and his disciples. Yet in today’s gospel Jesus advises his disciples to get away and rest, to take care of themselves. Sometimes we think that when others are in great need we shouldn’t think of ourselves at all; but Jesus also honors the caregivers’ need. We are sent from Christ’s table to care for others and for ourselves.



### July 28th - Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Today is the first of five Sundays with gospel readings from John 6, the first four of which focus on Jesus as bread of life. Today Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus’ table, seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference: it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, **a world where all the hungry are satisfied.**

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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## Change

As summer is upon us, we find change happening. Waldorf school is leaving us. We are looking at the possibilities for the available room we now have. Changing the usage of our available space.

We have been looking at remodeling the kitchen. It will be a change, hopefully to make it safer, more efficient and updated.

The outside memorial grass area needs to be revitalized and made useful and inviting. Another change. And during the revitalization a possible new garden will emerge giving us an abundance of food for our congregation and people in need.

I know some people don't like change. But sometimes change is better and more inviting. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. As a church, we need to consider change for the everyone as a whole. What change works for us and what needs reconsideration.

I for one have always like change at times. I look at what I have or what I'm doing and consider what changing it could look like or how it could work better. Does it enhance my life, my daily usage, and is it worth trying? Some things work, some don't. But it is good to look at what is possible and possibly better.

As a member of our church, we look at how we are doing things and take into consideration suggestions that come in from other members. Some suggestions are worth trying and some tried are worth keeping if they work better for all. Some if not working must be reconsidered.

We have several teams at our church who listen to suggestions, look at the possibilities and consider how the change can be incorporated. There is discussion during team meetings, is it worth trying to see if it would work better and the reasons for the change. A vote to consider the change is taken and the majority makes the decision to incorporate the change or not. Some large decisions must go before the council and possibly the congregation before a final vote is taken.

The Worship Team meets monthly and recently discussed a suggestion of changing the way we distribute communion. We have a shortage of volunteers and we were discussing ways to make distribution easier and more efficient for those preparing the table and then cleaning it all afterwards. A vote to try using the common cup for distribution was approved. It was tried and met with a lot of concerned discussion among those attending. There was enough concern, the decision was rescinded and we returned to our regular means of using individual cups. We are still looking at ways to make it work better and asking for more volunteers. This change didn't work well, but other ideas may work.

The Communications Team is finishing up the new photo directory and it will be available this month. Other teams are looking for ideas to consider and implement. And volunteers are always needed to help. Check the new directory for phone number and/or emails to contact team leaders. Bring your ideas and/or concerns to the team leaders, council and/or Pastor Shaun. We look forward to hearing from you.

Remember we are all volunteers. Becoming involved with a team is exciting to help our congregational family continue to explore what God has us to do.

Sonja Dresbach, Council President



Message  
from the  
**President**

# FAITH IN ACTION

## 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,  
Amy Zimmerman, and Pr. Shaun O'Reilly

## 2024 TEAMS & LEADERS

### **Faith Formation:**

Adult (Sundays) Pr. Shaun, Adult (Saturdays) Pr. Stan, Youth - Sharon Scagliotti

**Communications:** Amy Zimmerman

**Fellowship/Hospitality:** Pat Porter, Jean Carter

**Finance:** LindaLu Miller

**Property:** Eric Weldon

**Outreach/Social Action:** Judi Hein

**Stewardship:** Eric Weldon

**Worship and Music:** Sharon Scagliotti

**Personnel:** Linda Zimmerman

**YEE HAW!**

**HOWDY!**

**IT'S TIME FOR OUR WESTERN BBQ!**

**Sunday, August 18th, 11am**

Mark your calendar for Sunday, August 18, after church service. BBQ pulled pork, smoked brisket, fried chicken and hot dogs will be furnished by the Fellowship Team. The pulled pork and brisket will be prepared by Grill Master Eric, and the fried chicken is courtesy of the Colonel. A sheet will be available in August for the congregation to sign up for all the great side dishes.

This year we are adding a new twist! One of our former members donated two beautiful quilts which we are going to raffle off. AND the Worship, Fellowship, Communications, Building & Grounds Teams, along with the Church Council, will be preparing gift baskets for a silent auction. All proceeds from these items will go directly to the Kitchen Remodel Fund. The quilts will be on display in the Narthex for a few Sunday's prior to the BBQ, and the gift baskets will be on display the Sunday of the BBQ.

# FAITH FORMATION

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## If Grace Is True

WHY GOD WILL  
SAVE EVERY PERSON



"Gulley and Mulholland have done what many Christians have failed to do: they have honestly faced the Church's traditional doctrines of salvation and eternal justice."—*Christianity Today*

PHILIP GULLEY  
JAMES MULHOLLAND



### ADULT FORUM

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

**Continuing through July 28th\*** - We continue "Salvation, Heaven and Hell." Consider purchasing the book ***If Grace is True***, by Gulley and Mulholland, to reference as we go. There are many inexpensive used copies out there! Join us!

*Just come along!*

**\*July 21st** - Please note, class will not meet

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## SATURDAY FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

Join Pastor Stan as we study the books of the new testament. Currently we are exploring the gospel of Mark as it is the basis for lectionary readings in 2024. This conversation is open to everyone and all of your questions are encouraged, *especially* from those who are novices on the new testament.

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**

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## Faith Kids' Place! is on summer hiatus!



# OUTREACH

## Big Heart Gardens Vacation Bible School

Faith Lutheran Church - *Where Holy Fruit Grows*

**\* PLEASE NOTICE - NEW DATES \***

**\* July 29th - August 2nd \*, 9am to 12pm, 3yrs - 12yrs**



**Hey Kids!** Come be a part of a fun-filled week of learning about God's Fruitful Gardens through worship, music, lessons, games, crafts, & snacks. \$20 per child, scholarships available!

Registration is now open. Scan the QR code for the link. Hard copies available in the Narthex.



## SHARED HARVEST

For the month of July, we need only, 27 boxes of **cold cereal**, and **deodorant** in unlimited quantities. Packing will be on Sun, July 28th, 1pm @ Holy Cross, Reno.

## OUTREACH TEAM

The Outreach Team is having a meeting on **Monday, July 15th @ 5:00pm** to plan our mission for the rest of the year. Please join us, we would love to have you attend!

We will be partnering again this year with Elmcrest Elementary, so stay tuned for our school supply list requests which we will start collecting in August to help the kids get started for their new '24-25 school year.



## 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. Study schedules may be found on the table in the Narthex. Everyone is welcome!

### 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.

# July 2024

## Faith Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 1:30pm Bible Study	3	4  INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	6 Sat Class Cancelled
7 9:30am Worship No Adult Forum No Kids Place	8	9 1:30pm Bible Study	10 12pm Finance Mtng	11	12	13 1pm FAITH FORMATION CLASS
14 9:30am Worship 11am Adult Forum No Kids Place	15 6pm Council Mtng	16 11:45am NARFE 1:30pm Bible Study	17	18	19	20 10am Worship Mtng 1pm FAITH FORMATION CLASS
<b>PASTOR SHAUN OUT - JULY 218th - 26th</b>						
21 9:30am Worship 11am Adult Forum No Kids Place	22	23 1:30pm Bible Study	24	25	26	27 1pm FAITH FORMATION CLASS
<b>PASTOR SHAUN OUT - JULY 18th - 26th</b>						
28 9:30am Worship 11am Adult Forum No Kids Place	29	30	31	<b>Weekly Group Meetings in the FLC Space</b> ♦ ACA; Mondays at 5:30pm ♦ 4-H WhipStirs; 2nd Wednesday at 6:30pm ♦ Scouts; Thursdays at 7:00pm		
<b>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (rescheduled) JUL 29th - AUG 2nd</b>						