

# Following Faith

October Newsletter 2024



Friends of faith, some recent ideas about church, hope, and discipleship became clearer to me. Can I testify?!

Ok, I was reading this book with some friends about “Christology” and the ongoing questions of who Jesus Christ is (or was) and what that means in our lives and in the life of the church. This book was standing on the idea that a real “Christology” (words

about Jesus being “the Christ”) comes from being a disciple. Simply put, thinkers and philosophers can *think* and *philosophize* about this matter all they want, but knowing (which is always-already an experience) a “Christology” means ... you’ll be a disciple. It’s a “disciple’s discipline,” the writer was saying (I like that phrase!).

Meaning, you can’t “know” Christology or describe Christology without attempting to live it. Another way to say it is: You understand the idea better, or at all, only as you follow the Christ.

Like it’s not a matter of the classroom, it’s a matter of the heart.  
Or, at least it begins there.

And then it has freedom to eek all over classrooms and books and iPads and all the things!

Then, this glancing at the idea of —“Christology” as “discipleship — led me back to what we’ve been experiencing in our church year together. We are in Lectionary Year B. We are in the last months of Year B (the New Church Year will launch December 1st — Happy New Year, Church!). And this year has been the gospel of Mark.

I hope it’s been clear and vibrant for us: This gospel of Mark is a disciple’s gospel. It’s written as a “disciple’s discipline!” It is action-oriented, short and effective. It always has this language about joining in, and following.

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For example, just a couple weeks ago was the major turning point in the gospel of Mark: just when Peter confessed, "You are the Messiah," Jesus immediately said: I'm going to the cross. Get in line. Come with me now.

And they were dumbfounded. We would be too.

But Mark's gospel isn't about flowery words or long Jesus-prayers. It's about following the leader. And it's a beautiful invitation, not a demand. We are *\*invited* to the disciple's discipline: "come after me" (1:17), "follow me" (2:14), "and he followed him on the way" (10:52).

Savor with me these last weeks in Mark's gospel in this lectionary year. And let's not just listen with our heads, but with our hearts and with ALL of us. Listen not as if, "this is what we do at 9:50am on Sundays." But draw close and push in; move around so that you can see and sense the teacher; open yourself to the merciful invitation. You are I invited to the disciple's discipline.

I'm glad we go there together,

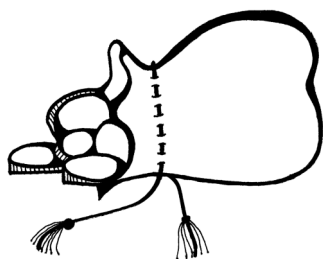
†Pastor Shaun O'Reilly



## IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

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### October 13th - The 21st Sunday after Pentecost *and Blessing of the Animals*



The rich man who comes to ask Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life is a good man, sincere in his asking. Mark's gospel is alone in saying that Jesus looked on him and loved him. Out of love, not as judgment, Jesus offers him an open door to life: sell all you own and give it to the poor. Our culture bombards us with the message that we will find life by consuming. Our assemblies counter this message with the invitation to find life by divesting for the sake of the other.

### October 20th - The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Susan Palwick is our preacher this day! Pr Shaun presides.

Today's gospel starts with disciples obsessing over who will be closest to Jesus, leading to Jesus teaching his followers about God's take on importance and power.



Here's a great meditation on service: *The seemingly impossible role of service is possible for us all because it is not just a command. It is a gift of God. Service is God's gift because it is God who serves us. Other gods have been revealed so that women and men could serve them. This God, the God of the Suffering Servant, the God of Jesus Christ, begins from the other end. God is, first of all, not a king sitting on a pyramid of the world creating pyramids of domination and subjugation in the hierarchies of church and society. Rather, the humanity of God is seen in that God chooses to be related to human beings through service. Jesus helps us to see the humanity of God so that we too can become representatives of new humanity. This is the image of God: freedom to serve others.* — Letty Russell

[Letty Russell, in *Women and the Word: Sermons*, ed. Helen Gray Crotwell (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1978), 87-89.]



### October 27th - *Festival of the Reformation*

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in

the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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## **We dream of a church...**

The month of October we will have some adult forums to discuss your dreams for Faith Lutheran. The forums will happen following service in our fellowship area. Grab a coffee/drink, snack, and sit with us and share your thoughts.

The council wants to hear what you see for FLC in the future.

We had dreams of an uplift for our church and we have completed painting the church and after years of dealing with a leaky roof, we finally got a new roof.

Then our big dream for a new parking lot. What a dream and everyone came through and helped make that dream possible and we were able to pay for it without taking on a new loan. What a grand dream come true. Thank you to everyone that made that happen.

We are now working on our dream of a remodeled kitchen. You are making that dream come true also. We are over half way to that goal.

What is your dream for Faith Lutheran? Where do you want to see us next year? In 5 years? Your council has been discussing this at our meetings. We want to share some of our ideas and hear your ideas on:

senior care, congregational care, sunshine team, fellowship, property,  
communications, visitors to the homebound,

What do we see for our worship services and space? Current and future faith classes? What do you see as mission in the community?

Sit with us these next Sundays in October and share your dreams for our family church.

Sonja Dresbach, Council President



Message  
from the  
**President**

# FAITH FORMATION

## ADULT FORUM

We are meeting in the back of the Sanctuary, talking about “*I dream of a church*” for the month of October. Coming up:

Oct 13th - of Worship. What are our dreams for gathering, word, meal and sending that is Lutheran and relevant and excellent?

Oct 20th - of Learning and Growth. What are our dreams of faith formation, discipleship and training in life and faith that encourages authentic Christian living and connection?  
~Can include dreams of themes to study, inviting friends, engaging topics, training leaders, more groups/engagement opportunities, off-campus groups, teaching teams, resources, life-long learning opportunities.

Oct 27th - of Mission. What are our dreams for connection to our community, those in need, and our call to live in the care God has for the whole world?

~Can include dreams of prayer teams, eucharistic ministers, budget, local/national/international giving, learning about our neighbors, understanding the goal of common good, letter writing and petitions stewardship of our property and resources, ex., our garden area.

## SATURDAY FAITH FORMATION CLASSES



Join Pastor Stan as we study the books of the new testament. In August we started a series of presentations on the Book of Revelation. 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.**

**BEGINS AGAIN NOV 2ND\* ~ SATURDAY'S @ 1PM**

***\*No more classes will be held in October - but will begin again in November.***



**10:50am - 11:50am**

# FAITH IN ACTION

## 2024 FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

**President:** Sonja Dresbach

**Vice President:** Eric Weldon

**Secretary:** Benjamin Pesis

**Treasurer:** Erica Wilfrid

**Members at Large:** Jean Carter, Matthew Rhiley,  
Amy Zimmerman, and Pr. Shaun O'Reilly

## 2024 TEAMS & LEADERS

**Communications:** Amy Zimmerman

**Finance:** Erica Wilfrid

**Outreach/Social Action:** Judi Hein

**Worship and Music:** Sharon Scagliotti

**Fellowship:** Eileen Way

**Property:** Eric Weldon

**Stewardship:** Eric Weldon

**Personnel:** Linda Zimmerman

**OCTOBER 26th,  
SATURDAY,  
@ 2PM**



**Bratwurst & Buns will be provided!**

**Please bring a German dish to share if you are able;**

**Appetizer, Salad, Side Dish, or Dessert**

**Water and Lemonade will be provided.**

**Bring your own beer/wine/soft drinks**

***Please sign up on the sign in sheet, located in the Narthex, so we know how many bratwurst to prepare.***

**Contact Eileen Way if you have questions:**

**775-560-3248 or email [helenflc@hotmail.com](mailto:helenflc@hotmail.com)**

# OUTREACH & COMMUNITY



We are participating with Elmcrest Elementary's  
"Trunk or Treat"  
on Tuesday, Oct 29th @ 5pm

This is a great way to serve local kids and their families!  
We will decorate a trunk. Please donate some candy, no later  
than Oct 27th, that we can give out. Contact Judi Hein if you  
want to be involved with the "TRUNK".



The cookbooks are at the printers and should be received by the end of  
October. They cost \$15 each. If anyone is interested in pre-ordering  
please contact: Amy Zimmerman at [amyzimmerman818@gmail.com](mailto:amyzimmerman818@gmail.com)

Daughters of Norway Painting Class  
will be held at FLC on October 19th



Pac 512 will be having their annual  
Fall Festival, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 4pm  
on the FLC patio.

## SHARED HARVEST

For **October** we need only **25 cans  
of Fruit & 23 boxes of Cold Cereal.**  
Packing is Sun, 10/27, 1pm @ Our  
Savior, Sparks.



Faith Lutheran Church is pairing up with  
Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission  
for 2024 Thanksgiving Pie Collection

Please bring home made or store bought pies to the  
Faith Kitchen on Sunday, 11/24 or by Tuesday, 11/26 by noon



## 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](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.

# October 2024

Faith Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 1:30pm Bible Study	2 <b>12pm LUNCH BUNCH</b>	3	4	5
6 9:30am Worship 11am Adult Forum 10:50am Kids Place	7	8 1:30pm Bible Study	9 <b>12pm Finance Mtng</b>	10	11	12 <b>10am Worship Team Mtng</b>
13 9:30am Worship 	14 <b>COLUMBUS DAY</b> <b>INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY</b>	15 <b>11:45am NARFE</b> 1:30pm Bible Study	16	17 5:45pm - 7:15pm Choir Practice	18	19 <b>DAUGHTERS OF NORWAY</b> Painting Class <b>4pm Scout Pac 512 FALL FESTIVAL</b> (on the Patio)
<b>PASTOR SHAUN OUT FOR CAMPUS MINISTRY TRAINING</b>						
20 9:30am Worship <b>11am Choir Practice</b> 10:50am Kids Place	21 <b>6pm Council Mtng</b>	22 1:30pm Bible Study	23	24	25	26 2pm <b>OKTOBERFEST</b> 
27 9:30am Worship <b>REFORMATION SUNDAY</b> 11am Adult Forum 10:50am Kids Place	28	29 <b>5pm TRUNK or TREAT</b> <b>@ Elmcrest Elementary</b>	30	31 		
				<b>Weekly Group Meetings in the FLC Space</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ ACA; Mondays at 5:30pm</li> <li>◆ 4-H WhipStirs; 2nd Wednesday at 6:30pm</li> <li>◆ Scouts; Thursdays at 7:00pm</li> </ul>		