

Following Faith

November Newsletter 2024

Friends of Faith,
Save the date for a great spiritual growing experience! Saturday, January 11th! Our synod is inviting a teacher, preacher, and professor from Valparaiso University to come and lead a day-retreat of talks on "Approaches to the Bible."

And, this is one of my favorite preachers and teachers!
And, we're going to host the sessions here at Faith Lutheran Church!

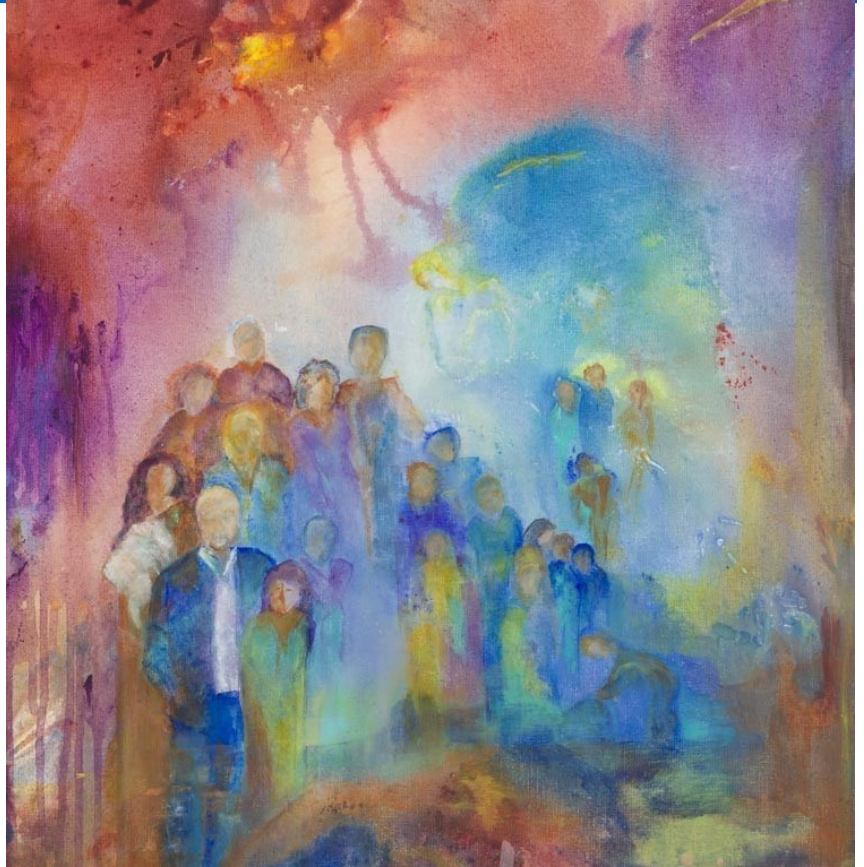
So, yes, save the date and think of people to invite to a stimulating and open conversation about reading/studying scripture in our world today.

In honor of Dr. Fred Niedner's upcoming visit, here is a quote from his book about our upcoming celebration of All Saints Sunday, and the life of the church:

From chapter 7, titled, "THE CHURCH: Spirited People Keeping the Story Alive and Keeping Alive by the Story."

"An early creed, coming perhaps from the middle of the second century A.D., concludes with the words, "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy church." Whoever framed that baptismal creed was obviously keenly aware of the fact that the Spirit and the church cannot really be spoken of in separation from each other. You just cannot have the one without the other. We might restate this reciprocal relationship by saying that the Spirit is that which creates the church, and the church is that which is created by the Spirit. Although a circular argument like this one is never an adequate definition of something, it does suggest what needs to be said at the center of our discussion of the Christian

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THANKSGIVING GRATITUDE ON THE WAY
-TERRI DAVIS ART & DESIGN

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community. When this relationship between the Spirit and the church is kept at the center of our understanding of the church, then Christ's death is not wasted and sinners really do get cheered and comforted by the good news.

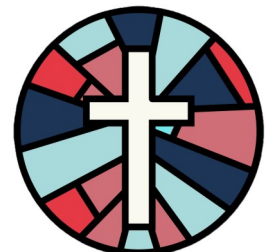
Suppose that human being/ sinner X hears the story of Jesus told in such a way that she hears it with the trusting faith we speak about. Suppose, that is, that X becomes a Christian. What then? Why, then she will discover that she is not alone! As the letter to the Ephesians puts it, someone who was dead in trespasses and sin and is made alive in connection with Christ (Eph 2:1) wakes up and discovers that she is not alone, but has by coming to faith also come to be a member of a body, a family, an organism, a community. There is no possibility of an isolated, solo-act kind of Christian existence. To be a Christian is to be a member of the "body of Christ" (Eph 4:12)—that organism which ensures the continued presence of Jesus in the world, both the bearer of his story and the body charged with continuing his mission of forgiveness and service. That means that there is no other way to be a Christian than as a part of this Christ-body, this community which names him as Lord and is animated by his Spirit."

(Okay, Pastor Shaun here again.) Friends, what moves me around this time of year—at All Saints Day and as we head toward themes of renewal around Advent and into the birth of the Word at Christmas—is that we are ONE with the body of Christ that has followed him for more than 2,000 years. I love the way Fred puts it: We, Christians, are a "body," continuing the presence of Christ in the world, *"both the bearer of his story and the body charged with continuing his mission of forgiveness and service."*

At this, All Saints, I am thankful for teachers like Dr. Niedner that will fly across the country and come to be with us in January, telling the story of wonder. I am thankful for Saints from the past—they way others have faithfully continued the mission of forgiveness and service. And I am thankful to walk into that mission, today = here and now, with you!

May your Spirit be lifted up by the strong, loving, faithful body that you exist within, and may you be filled with comfort and courage this All Saints Day!

†Pastor Shaun O'Reilly



IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH



Nov 3rd - Of all three years of the lectionary cycle, this year's All Saints readings have the most tears. Isaiah and Revelation look forward to the day when God will wipe away all tears; in John's gospel, Jesus weeps along with Mary and all the gathered

mourners before he demonstrates his power over death. On All Saints Day we celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve for our beloved dead as well, knowing that God honors our tears. We bring our grief to the table and find there a foretaste of Isaiah's feast to come.

Nov 10th - Grateful Giving of the Heart

Our worship will center around our shared life together — celebrating where we've come from and looking forward to God's shared mission among us today. In the gospel, Jesus denounces those scribes who pray impressive prayers but devour widows' houses. He commends the one who gives with faith. Jesus sees sacrificial sharing, even of the little we have, as a sign of our heart of connection to God and others.



Nov 17th - Stewardship is Faithful Trust!

Our faith is a deep trust in God, through Christ. And this trust comforts our Spirit as well as animates our living mission as the Body of Christ. In a way, both what we received in our lives and as the Church is all a "trust"—we are gifted and given the sacred responsibility to steward our communal resources for the gospel and for those in need. This Sunday we tell the story of community and commit to give our time, talent, and treasures for the ongoing work!



Nov 24th - Story of the Church Year

In song, colors, paraments, and story we tell reflect on the seasons in our Church Year and celebrate Christ! This is our last Sunday of the year before the launch of Advent. Come, celebrate, and help us "Green the Church" for Advent, following the worship service.



THE CHOIR SINGS THIS DAY!



Dec 1st - *Pr Stan Pesis Preaches and Presides*



God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the season of Advent. With the ancient church throughout time, we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This month enjoy the sights and sounds of our Faith Lutheran family.



Our choir is growing and sounding great under the direction of our new director, Sam White. If you would like to join the choir, let Sam know, check the schedule and share your voice.

Two of our members, Judi Hein and Eileen Way, participated in the "Trunk or Treat" Halloween event at Elmcrest Elementary and had a great turn out and fun was had by all!



Our Oktoberfest was a success again this year. Good food, fun time, and great fellowship -plus- a live "German" band featuring our own congregants, Matthew R, Louis L, Pr Shaun, Wes G and Ben P.

Sonja Dresbach, Council President

Message
from the
President

OUTREACH

On Oct 29 Judi Hein and Eileen Way participated in "Trunk or Treat" at Elmcrest School. We had fun handing out the candy, which you donated, to cute, costumed kids and inviting them to visit us. Some of kids even got their photos taken with Judi Gorilla!



On Oct 14 Kathy Wilson and Theresa Wolken delivered breakfast to Elmcrest School for their Teacher's Work Day. They were very appreciative!

In September, Faith joined with three other ELCA churches in Reno for the Pride Festival. We marched in the parade together and then shared a booth. We gave out bottled water and other churches gave out t-shirts.



FAITH FORMATION

ADULT FORUM

Join us on Sundays in November to look at Louis Ling's own book project on images of "Blood and Sacrifice in the Scriptures!" We are reading and discussing and Louis is looking for constructive feedback. *All are welcome.*

SATURDAY FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

Join Pastor Stan as we study Scripture and Tradition. This conversation is open to everyone and all questions are encouraged, *especially* from those who are novices on the Bible.

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



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

Fellowship: Eileen Way

Finance: Erica Wilfrid

Property: Eric Weldon

Outreach/Social Action: Judi Hein

Stewardship: Eric Weldon

Worship and Music: Sharon Scagliotti

Personnel: Linda Zimmerman

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



*I wish to thank all those who have
called and sent me e-mails and
cards. I miss my Faith family and
hope to be with you soon!
Linda Lu Miller*



SAVE THE DATE! COOKIE PALOOZA, DEC 1ST!



**The cookbooks are at the here! If you preordered,
see Amy Zimmerman, or email her at
amyzimmerman818@gmail.com**

Extra copies are available for purchase!



SHARED HARVEST

For **November** we need only **18 cans of Vegetables** and
36 cans of Chili. Packing is Sun, 11/24, 1pm @ Faith Lutheran.



COMMUNITY



Thank You to all who participated in our Oktoberfest Event. The food was fabulous!
Thank you Matthew for the musical entertainment. Thanks to Eric for grilling the
Bratwurst and Franks. A hearty thanks to all who set up and cleaned up for the event.

Eileen Way, Fellowship Chair

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.

November 2024



1st - Friday, *All Saints Day*

2nd - Saturday, **Daughters of Norway, 1pm Faith Formation Class**

3rd - Sunday, 9:30am WORSHIP, 10:45am Kids' Place

◇ *All Saints Sunday, Daylight Savings Time Ends*

4th - Monday, 5:30pm ACA Mtng

5th - Tuesday, 1:30pm Bible Study, 6:30pm 4-H WhipStirs

◇ *Election Day*

6th - Wednesday, **12 Noon LUNCH BUNCH**

7th - Thursday, 7pm Scouts

8th - Friday

9th - Saturday, **10am Worship Team Mtng, 1pm Faith Formation Class**

10th - Sunday, 9:30am WORSHIP, 10:45am Kids' Place, 11am Adult Forum

11th - Monday, 5:30pm ACA Mtng

◇ *Veteran's Day*

12th - Tuesday, 1:30pm Bible Study

13th - Wednesday, **12 Noon FINANCE MTNG**, 6:30pm 4-H WhipStirs

14th - Thursday, 7pm Scouts

15th - Friday

16th - Saturday, **Daughters of Norway, 11am fellowship Mtng,**

1pm Faith Formation Class

17th - Sunday, 9:30am WORSHIP, 10:45am Kids' Place, 11am Adult Forum

18th - Monday, 5:30pm ACA Mtng, **6pm COUNCIL MTNG**

19th - Tuesday, **11:45am NARFE**, 1:30pm Bible Study

20th - Wednesday

21st - Thursday, **5:30pm FELLOWSHIP TEAM MTNG**, 7pm Scouts

22nd - Friday

23rd - Saturday, **1pm Faith Formation Class**

24th - Sunday, 9:30am WORSHIP, 10:45am Kids' Place, 11am Adult Forum

◇ *Christ the King*

25th - Monday, 5:30pm ACA Mtng

26th - Tuesday, 1:30pm Bible Study

27th - Wednesday

28th - Thursday, **THANKSGIVING DAY**

29th - Friday, **Native American Heritage Day**

30th - Saturday, **1pm Faith Formation Class**