

Following Faith

March Newsletter 2025



Remember you are dust,
and to dust you shall return

I have an idea of what we can give up for Lent.

We can give up ourselves!

Can't we?

This is Christianity.

This is the religion that follows Jesus Christ.

Ergo - YES. We can follow the one that "gave himself up for us all."

We can give up ourselves!

We can get over ourselves.

Is this good news to you?

-continued-

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I know that question can be hard. But it's important too. If you've got any hesitation with that kind of question, I'd like to tell you two things:

- 1) You're in good company. That's all of us here, still wrestling with the (daily) task of getting over ourselves.
- 2) Come join us on Wednesday nights in the Way. We can intentionally walk together this Jesus path as followers and practitioners of his kingdom, and we don't have to shoulder the burden of taking stuff off our shoulders alone. (Did you follow that?)

This is the good news of Christ: We can give up ourselves!

Giving it up for Lent and leaning into the passion story of Jesus, that's our way.

We know we have to give up convention. We cannot keep doing what we've always done. We cannot follow the ways of our world that reiterate movements of only looking out for oneself. We have to give up convention and broken systems.

We know we have to get over nationalism and self-importance and some sense that those born within our arbitrary borders are better than anyone else. We have to get over nationalism.

We know we have to release pietism too. We won't "become quietly holy" enough to advance our fruit-growing in Christ. We can practice our faithful disciplines, but they won't save us. Especially when we prop them up as a mask covering over our hard hearts.

But we can give up ourselves for Lent too.

This is the way of Jesus. Not just "an eye for an eye" but entering into the new social relationships that make room for the Other and give them precedence. This Lent, the "Other" is, in fact, our Lord. When we put ourselves aside for the stranger and the neighbor, we are putting ourselves aside and inviting Jesus in, giving ourselves up for Love.

I know it's hard, I know it's paradoxical, and I know we need hope. But we have each other as we release in this season. Christ's truth will undo the powers of sin, even (and sometimes beginning) with us. We are called to love, prayer, and service.

God, help us give ourselves up this Lent!

†Pastor Shaun O'Reilly



IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

March 2nd - **Mardi Gras Jazz Service** / Transfiguration Sunday!



Thanks to our members and friends for the gift of New Orleans Jazz-styled hymns this day! Thank you to Louis, Wes, Matthew, Todd and Heinz! Also huge thanks to our friends from VBS this summer - Isaiah Heglund and his father, Andrew.

More than Jazz, we celebrate God's glory and the fulfillment of the law and the prophets in the person of Jesus Christ.

March 5th - Ash Wednesday

- **12 Noon - Drive-thru Ashes and Blessing**
- **6pm - Worship Service with Communion**



We begin our forty-day journey toward easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge our mortality, that we die and return to dust. Simultaneously, the image of the cross shows us that our baptisms with Christ mean we always journey with him, and that we are raised with him too!

Our baptismal call in Lent is to live intentionally and bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

Weds in Lent: 5:30pm Soup Supper / 6pm Evening Prayer Service / 6:30pm The Way

IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

March 9th - First Sunday in Lent



The Spirit fills Jesus as he is tested in the desert. Like Israel, Jesus is in the wilderness. Like Moses, Jesus is on a high mountain and fasts for forty days and nights (Deut. 9:9). The temptation is presented as an eschatological moment, Jesus as Son of God confronting the devil with responses from Deuteronomy 8:3, 6:3, and 6:16. The narrative depicts Jesus' rejecting messiahship as a position of power, and instead bearing the weight of human sin and need all the way to accepting his cross.

March 16th - Second Sunday in Lent

As part of Jesus' passion journey to Jerusalem, he stands over the city weeps for the people: "How I have longed to gather you together as a hen gathers her brood."



March 23rd - Third Sunday in Lent

There are warnings for the branches of the tree of God's people — cut it out or get cut down! We are invited to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

March 30th - Fourth Sunday in Lent



In Luke we'll read the famous parable of the prodigal and the jealous son. They are each of us: we are all the foolish runaway who wastes what God has provided, and we are all the smug good guy who condemns the outsider. So it is that Augustine, and Luther after him, taught that all humans are sinful, all need the forgiveness that God offers. Repeatedly in the Bible a feast is the image for our communal joy in sharing the life of God. Today a sign of this feast is offered us in holy communion.

FAITH FORMATION

Sunday Adult Forum: Our Lenten journey to Pray, Love, Serve



Our Adult Forum in Lent will focus on scriptural, traditional, and experiential approaches to prayer and service.

How do our lives communicate with God, the Divine?

How do we hear from God?

What do we say?

And, hearing the love of God, how are we called to turn and love the world in tangible ways?

For each gathering in Lent, please feel free to bring a reflection you've had while engaging the Lenten Devotional that week.

The devotional: The WAY, the TRUTH, the LIFE is available In the welcome space of the Narthex.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Sundays, 10:50am - 11:50am

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Your new council has been elected by you at our annual meeting. The council met for its first meeting and elected the officers for 2025. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor and [not more than seven nor fewer than five members] of this congregation.

The officers for 2025 are listed below.

Pastor Shaun O'Reilly - President, Sonja Dresbach - Vice President, Matthew Rhiley - Secretary, Benjamin Pesis - Treasurer, Erica Wilfrid - Members at Large, Eric Weldon & Sharon Scagliotti.

Our first meeting found us planning for a retreat to work on goals for the coming year. If you have ideas, thoughts or concerns, we would like to have your input. Please send your information to the president to be considered in the retreat in March or speak to a council member.

Thank you for your participation in all aspects of our church home. We are looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us in the coming year. All of us together can keep our church family strong, loving, and caring.

We offer worship, classes, bible studies, music, assisting in worship, outreach, and maintenance opportunities. We hope you are able to participate in one of these opportunities. God wants us to come together and be a strong family, helping one another and reaching out to help others.

Thank you for being part of God's family at Faith.

Sonja Dresbach, Council President



2025 FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Sonja Dresbach	Vice President: Matthew Rhiley
Secretary: Benjamin Pesis	Treasurer: Erica Wilfrid
Members at Large: Eric Weldon, Sharon Scagliotti, & Pr. Shaun O'Reilly	

2025 TEAMS & LEADERS

Communications: Amy Zimmerman	Fellowship: Eileen Way
Finance: Erica Wilfrid	Property: Eric Weldon
Outreach/Social Action: Judi Hein	Stewardship:
Worship and Music: Sharon Scagliotti	Personnel: Linda Zimmerman

FAITH IN ACTION

The Blessing of Service

1 Peter 4:10-11 "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."

Serving is a form of worship, a way of expressing gratitude for what Jesus has done for us and a way to give back to God & our congregation. But...do you look at church service as a chore or an opportunity? Like everything else the answer depends on your perspective. A chore is usually viewed as something that has to be done in order to keep our house/lives neat, & tidy. It is a daily occurrence and not always pleasant or fun. It takes time & effort, and we all know how precious our time is. Between spouses, children, jobs, hobbies, travel, daily errands, appointments etc., there seems to be little time for anything else.

Our Faith Lutheran church is not so different from our homes, there is always something that needs to be done to keep the framework of our congregation functioning in a continuous and orderly manner. You can look at our church duties as mundane chores ... or view them as opportunities to serve our God and our church family. By changing our attitudes to one of opportunity we can view church service as a way of blessing to ourselves & others. You've heard it said that "many hands make light work" and it is so true and here again is an opportunity to meet, connect & work together with fellow members of our church family to a desired result. And, I believe, most importantly, that church service is an opportunity to serve God, He has been so good to me, & with serving His church I serve Him.

-Sharon Scagliotti, Worship Team 

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.

FAITH IN ACTION



Lutheran Lobby Day

On Monday, February 10th, I attended *Lutheran Lobby Day* at St. Paul's Lutheran Family in Carson City. Pr. Paul Larson is the new LEAN (Lutheran Engagement and Advocacy in Nevada) Lobbyist. There were twenty in attendance. At 9am we had coffee & muffins and got acquainted with those attending followed by a short worship service to get us centered for the day.

Deacon Craig LaGeir, Founder and Director of Nights off the Streets (NOTS), told us about this non-profit program. He also works for the Carson City Sherriff's Dept. After four unhoused people froze to death in Carson City he asked if churches would open their doors from 8:30pm to 6:30am for unhoused people to get off the streets and have a warm safe place to stay. It is run by volunteers and there are strict rules that must be followed to stay there. The volunteers try to provide the people with social services that can help get them into programs to become self sufficient. To find out more about this program check out their website: notscarson.org

We had a power point session, Advocacy 101, to prepare us to visit the Assembly members at the legislative building. We were broken into five groups and visited five Assembly members with our concerns on different Bills. We learned how to use NELIS (Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System) where you can look up your Assembly member and follow the Bills they are sponsoring. The group I was with visited Erica Roth, who is a new Assembly member, and already working on 6 Bills. They have only been in session one week and have already written 484 Bills! It was a very fun and educational day. The website for LEAN is

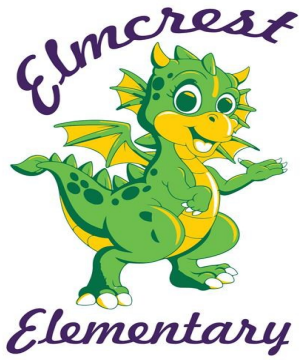
leanforjustice.org

I encourage you to be an advocate for those who are not able to speak up for themselves.

Eileen Way, Fellowship



OUTREACH



Elmcrest Elementary School is celebrating **Reading Week** the first week of March and invites you to read your favorite book to a class.



See Judi Hein for information.



We focus on Campus Ministry in March.

Pastor Shaun meets regularly with students and has suggestions for how our congregation can support this mission.

SHARED HARVEST



We are looking for someone to partner with Tom Landis to assist with the Shared Harvest ministry. Ask Tom or Judi more information.

For March we need 42 boxes mac 'n' cheese, 42 cans of chili, 28 jars of peanut butter, and toothpaste/toothbrushes in unlimited quantities. March packing will be **Mar 23rd, 1pm @ Good Shepherd, Reno**



FAITH COMMUNITY

I would like to thank everyone who came to our February Lunch Bunch. We had a good turn out and a fabulous program featuring the Note-Ables Music Therapy Services. Sam White, who is our choir director and Kid's Ministry teacher, presented the program.

Music therapy is a wonderful program especially for people with autism, dementia, addiction, and mental health issues. Musical Therapists seem like musical social workers. I attended one of their programs where moms of autistic young men gave testimonies of how the music therapy helped their sons have a productive life making music, having friends, and just having a safe place to hang out.

We collected \$225 for their non-profit! They are located at 2590 Orovada St in Reno. Like them on Facebook. Their website is nmtsreno.org and you should check out their newsletter as they have lots of activities for the public. Sam concluded the program with a sound bath using her crystal singing bowls, which was amazing! If you join the choir you will benefit from Sam's musical therapy talents. She is creative and talented. Thank you Sam!

-Eileen Way, Fellowship



THE LUNCH BUNCH

Faith Lutheran Church 2025 Schedule

January 1 **No Lunch Bunch**

February 5

March 5 Ash Wednesday **No Lunch Bunch**

April 2 soup Supper **No Lunch Bunch**

May 7

June 4 BBQ

July & August **No Lunch Bunch**

September 3

October 1

November 5

December 3

FAITH COMMUNITY

Congregation,

Thank you so much for your love and support, and the card and gift cards you gave at the announcement of our engagement!

We look forward to Amanda's move to Reno this summer, our wedding this fall, and everyone getting to know each other more in the days ahead!



Thank you for your care and encouragement! Peace!

-Pr Shaun and Amanda

Kitchen Remodel Begins!

The kitchen remodel begins Mar 6th. This will affect "food" activities. The kitchen will be CLOSED OFF ENTIRELY during the remodel with access only to AUTHORIZED remodel workers. Paper plates, plastic cutlery, and napkins etc... will be accessible in the sanctuary cabinets, however, serving platters, utensils, microwave, stove, refrigerator, freezer, or dishwashing access **WILL NOT** be available.

For "Fellowship after Worship" coffee & bottled water will still be provided. Please plan to bring treats to share which are prepackaged in their own containers, (pastries, cookies, muffins, etc...).

For Lenten soup suppers please bring your soup, already warm, or in your own crock pot, with a serving utensil.



Thank you!

March 2025



2nd - Sunday, 9:30am WORSHIP, ●A Transfiguration
Mardi Gras Jazz Service, followed by New Orleans
style food and a King Cake for March b'days!

●10:50am Kids' Place will be led by Sam W

3rd - Monday, 5:30pm ACA Mtng

4th - Tuesday, **1:30pm Bible Study**

5th - Wednesday, **12 Noon LUNCH BUNCH, 12 Noon FINANCE MTNG**, 6:30pm 4-H WhipStirs

●ASH WEDNESDAY, 12pm Drive-thru Imposition of Ashes, 6pm Evening Service

6th - Thursday, ****KITCHEN CLOSED FOR REMODEL****, 7pm Scouts

7th - Friday

8th - Saturday, **10am WORSHIP TEAM MTNG**

9th - Sunday, **LENT**, 9:30am WORSHIP, 10:50am Kids' Place, 11am Adult Forum

●Daylight Savings Time Ends

10th - Monday, 5:30pm ACA Mtng

11th - Tuesday, **1:30pm Bible Study**

12th - Wednesday, **1:30-3pm Support Group w/Pr Ruth**

●5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper, 6:00 pm Prayer Svc, 6:30pm THE WAY

13th - Thursday, 7pm Scouts

14th - Friday

15th - Saturday

16th - Sunday, **LENT**, 9:30am WORSHIP, 10:50am Kids' Place, 11am Adult Forum

17th - Monday, 5:30pm ACA Mtng, **6pm Council Meeting**  **Happy St Patrick's Day**

18th - Tuesday, **11am NARFE Luncheon, 1:30pm Bible Study**

19th - Wednesday, ●5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper, 6:00 pm Prayer Svc, 6:30pm THE WAY

20th - Thursday, 7pm Scouts

21st - Friday

22nd - Saturday

23rd - Sunday, **LENT**, 9:30am WORSHIP, 10:50am Kids' Place, 11am Adult Forum

24th - Monday, 5:30pm ACA Mtng

25th - Tuesday, **1:30pm Bible Study**

26th - Wednesday, ●5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper, 6:00 pm Prayer Svc, 6:30pm THE WAY

27th - Thursday, 7pm Scouts

28th - Friday

29th - Saturday

30th - Sunday, **LENT**, 9:30am WORSHIP, 10:50am Kids' Place, 11am Adult Forum

31st - Monday, 5:30pm ACA Mtng