

Following Faith Newsletter

Faith Lutheran Church, Reno NV

September 2025

Friends of Faith,

Here's news about our wider connection as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly was held July 28–Aug. 2, 2025, in Phoenix, Ariz. This is the primary decision-making body of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the meetings involve communal spiritual discernment, worship and celebration and carrying on the work on behalf of our church.

One of the speakers used symbol of the Sankofa (pictured here too) as a reference of this moment in life of the church. Sankofa is an African word from the Akan tribe of Ghana. The symbol is based on a mythical bird with its feet firmly planted forward with its head turned backward. As in, a reference for people believing the past serves as a guide for planning the future. The literal translation of the word and the symbol is "It is not taboo to fetch what is at risk of being left behind."

And I love that for Faith Lutheran Church too, if not for the wider ELCA. Now is the time to move forward, living faith forward, and yet fetching what is essential for the hike ahead too! More on all this very soon as we, Faith Lutheran, articulate mission together this fall!

At the Assembly there was business to be attended to at the meetings, but as I've read reports since and watched videos of the time together, there are two major points I am taking away from their faithful time.

There's renewed hope and vision for new leadership in our denomination, and what it means to be faithful community raising up leaders. We even know this from within our own congregational experience: Sarah Toney received her call to ministry while a member here at Faith Lutheran; and currently Todd Mauldin is in discernment with leaders about being endorsed as an ELCA chaplain. In these processes there is red tape and there are hoops to jump through, but our wider church is lifting up the ability for leaders to make new ways of ministry happen.

For instance: We elected a new Presiding Bishop and a new Secretary. These are two of the most significant roles in our church and are elected by the Assembly.



Our new Presiding Bishop, Bp. Yehiel Curry, is currently the bishop of the Metro Chicago Synod and he was a teacher and a social worker before being raised up within his congregation in Chicago to become a pastor. His path to ministry is unique and hopeful and empowering!

And our new Secretary, Rev. CeCee Mills, is currently Assistant to the Bishop in the North Carolina Synod and she came to ministry in a similar way as Bp. Curry; both came through the path of Theological Education in Emerging Ministries (TEEM). And both of these church leaders are mission developers – deeply committed to and experienced with growing and building our Church from the ground up.

Both are African-American, which is a first for the ELCA. Globally, the largest Lutheran bodies are in Ethiopia and Tanzania, and the "average Lutheran" worldwide is an African woman in her 30s. This moment marks an important step toward aligning our ELCA with the global church and empowering local leaders to serve fully.

The Churchwide Assembly also took actions on Palestine, Indian Boarding Schools, climate, racism, Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls, Christian nationalism, and more. And resolutions and joint statements can be empowering in ministry. We see a people at work where conversation leads to mutual discernment and clarity of conviction. The major flow of ideologies today seems to try to conflate speaking out in complex ways, but the church can still be a voice for the vulnerable and be clear and steadfast. I see this in the recent conversations and reports from Churchwide.

You can sense this leadership in the letter our (outgoing) Presiding Bishop sent to the US President and Congress on the situation in Gaza. [*Click here to read the letter.](#)

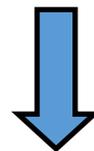
Yes, the synodical and denominational work can feel tedious at times. But in my 15 years around the ELCA, I've discovered that vision, inspiration, and deep conviction are just as present as the paperwork. My hope is that your heart will be lifted too—not just by dreams of what's ahead, but by seeing how the new builds on the good we've inherited. This is our shared journey, and it's truly moving.

Peace and all good,

Pr Shaun



For ELCA resources click
Or go to www.elca.org



IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH



Sunday, Sept. 7th 13th Sunday after Pentecost

In this excerpt, Luke balances his repeated proclamation of divine mercy with radical calls for the “large crowds” to commit themselves totally to the coming kingdom. As expected, Luke gives the radical call with parables of the builder and the warrior-king. By “carrying the cross” Luke has Jesus inviting all disciples to be willing to accompany him to his death.

So we are called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, and we might be helped by translating Paul’s request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God’s grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to “choose life”—to choose life in God as our own.

Sunday, Sept. 14th 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Ruth Hanusa preaches and presides this day.

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today’s gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, “The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” Thanks be to God.



Sunday, Sept. 21st 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Jesus commends a steward for taking an interest in the future. He foresees his future, and provides for it. Now, it seems that for many Christians, the chief concern has been to get to heaven after death. Too often a preoccupation for that aspect of the future creates an indifference to human values while on earth. But the future about which we are to think does not begin at some distant time after the resurrection of the dead. It begins now. It is the task of the church in every age to look at present practices and policies and to ask, “How will these affect tomorrow and the next day?” If the consequences are grim, then it is the task of the church to call for reassessment

and reversal—or to use the biblical word, repentance. When we are baptized, when we receive the eucharist, the future comes into our midst, and we are summoned to care about it earnestly, to protect it fervently.

—Laurence Hull Stookey

Sunday, Sept. 28th 16th Sunday after Pentecost

As we continue to study the gospel of Luke we encounter the story of poor Lazarus and the wealthy man.

Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those “at our gate,” visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.



Thank you, again, for your support of children in the Lutheran Church of El Salvador. Over the summer we were able to send about \$5,000 to their school to sponsor children for the year! Awesome turning and giving for the hear of the church worldwide (See Pr Shaun's front page article for connections to how our church is working nationally and also globally!)

Coming Up In Outreach



Shared Harvest ~ September

Thank you to everyone who donated last month! Here are the donation items requested for September: 28 Peanut butter, 42 Cans of Chili and 42 boxes of Mac & Cheese [no limit: Toothpaste, Tooth brushes]

The Reno Pride Parade and Festival will take place on **Saturday, September 6** [10 am to 8 pm]. Faith Lutheran will join with the three other ELCA churches in Reno and Sparks, **Holy Cross**, **Lord of Mercy** and **Good Shepherd** to march in the parade and share a booth after the parade. This year the parade and festival will be in Midtown because of construction near Winfield Park. If you are interested in marching or helping with the booth please talk to Pastor Shaun or Judi Hein.

Save the Date —

Elmcrest Elementary will host a **Trunk or Treat** at the school in the late afternoon of **Thursday, October 23rd**. We are invited to come set up cars and give out treats and say HI to families and kiddos. Let Judi Hein know if you can join this event (You can bring your own candy and such, or we have candy and supplies for use as well!)



Join Faith Food Friends!

We need volunteers and donations for weekly meal delivery to our un-housed neighbors!



Faith Food Friends are forming to join "The Reno Posse," which delivers healthy meals once a week to food insecure friends throughout Reno. This complements our ongoing support of Shared Harvest — the Lutheran churches' initiative across Reno and Sparks.

How you can help:

- **Volunteer roles:** shoppers, remote cooks and bakers, baggers, and meal delivery volunteers
- **Weekly donation needs:** 150 juice pouches, 150 snack bars, and individual-serving baked goods (cookies, cupcakes, muffins)

Ready to

join? Contact Judi Hein to sign up or coordinate donations.



Coming Up



THE LUNCH BUNCH

Join us September 3rd for a Potluck at Faith at 12pm.

Bring something to share!

Guest Speaker Jordan Potter, our Thrivent Representative, will tell us about Thrivent.



Saturday, October 4, 2025
Faith Lutheran Church
4:00 pm

Bratwurst & Buns will be provided. Please bring a German inspired dish to share. Appetizer, salad, side dish, or dessert.

We will provide lemonade & water, BYOB. Please see sign up sheet provided in the narthex.

Contact Eileen Way if you have questions:
Phone: 775-560-3248



December 7th Christmas Cookie Palooza!

Bring a dozen or a batch of your favorite homemade or store-bought Christmas cookies to share. We'll gather for coffee and cookies during Coffee Fellowship after Worship. Plus, you can take home any leftover treats! Please bring festive, holiday-themed cookies to make the day extra merry!

ALTAR GUILD - Saturday, September 13th 12:00 PM

A class will be held for existing, returning, and new volunteers who desire to serve our Lord in the ancient practice of preparing the altar and worship space for Sunday service. Please see Sharon Scagliotti for more information.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

RUMMAGE SALE

Small appliances, clothes, books, furniture, shoes, pots and pans, dinnerware, glassware, bikes, blankets, just to name a few.

Want to donate? Drop your treasures off at the church beginning September 1st. We cannot accept beds, box springs, TV's, baby cribs, car seats, large appliances, or exercise equipment.



4895 S. McCarran Blvd, Reno, NV 89502 (775) 827-4822
www.holycrossreno.org - holycrossreno@gmail.com

A letter from the Church President,

Do you have a prayer request or a prayer of thanks? For yourself or someone else? If it is for a family member or friend be sure they have agreed to be on our electronic prayer chain. The request then goes to Pastor to add to the Sunday prayers as well.

Do you want to pray for others? Contact us by email and request to be on the list agreeing to join others in prayer. prayers@faithlutheranreno.org.

Do you enjoy coffee fellowship after church? Coffee is provided by the church. If you would like to provide refreshments to go with the coffee, sign up on the form in the entrance on the bulletin board. It can be as simple as cookies, breads, fruits or veggies, or whatever you would like. The first Sunday of the month a cake is requested to celebrate our Birthdays and/or Anniversaries. Join with someone if you don't want to do it all by yourself. Bringing refreshments, we ask that you also help clean up after everyone has finished. Clean up the food, clear and wipe tables, wash the coffee pot, wipe counters. Leave the kitchen clean. **If you have a question**, an idea, or want to volunteer, contact the leaders at their emails or see them in person at church. Each of these leaders will help you or direct you to the person who has the answer for you.

September has openings for Coffee after Worship



The leaders cannot do their job alone. If you see somewhere you can help, contact the leader and offer your service. They will appreciate it.

Your Council

President	Sonja Dresbach	flcangels@aol.com
Vice President	Matthew Rhiley	matthewrhiley@gmail.com
Secretary	Ben Pesis	benjaminpesis@gmail.com
Treasurer	Erica Wilfrid	ericalynnew@gmail.com
At-Large	Eric Weldon	ericjweldon@yahoo.com
At-Large	Sharon Scagliotti	sharonscag@gmail.com
Pastor	Pastor Shaun O'Reilly	pastor@faithlutheranreno.org

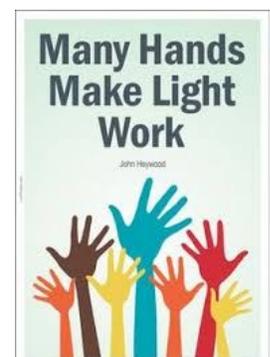
Team Leaders

Fellowship	Eileen Way	helenflc@hotmail.com
Finance	Erica Wilfrid	ericalynnew@gmail.com
Property	Eric Weldon	ericjweldon@yahoo.com
Outreach	Judi Hein	judihein@gmail.com
Stewardship	Pastor Shaun	pastor@faithlutheranreno.org
Worship / Music	Sharon Scagliotti	sharonscag@gmail.com
Communication	Amy Zimmerman	amyzimmerman818@gmail.com

As President, I ask you to think about how you can help with the upkeep of God's house. Be part of our family and help keep the inside and the outside of the church inviting, friendly and beautiful.

Thank you for all you do.

Sonja Dresbach
President



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:30 am Worship 10:50 am Kid's Place 11:00 am Adult Forum	ACA 5:30 - 7:45 pm	Bible Study 1:30 pm	Lunch Bunch 12 pm	Grief Support Group 10:30 am		The Reno Pride Parade and Festival 10 am - 8 pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 am Worship 10:50 am Kid's Place 11:00 am Adult Forum	ACA 5:30 - 7:45 pm	Bible Study 1:30 pm	Memory Care Support 1:30 pm 4-H WhipStirs 6:30 pm	Finance Meeting 12 pm Scouts 7:00 pm		Worship Team Meeting 10:00 am Altar Guild meeting 12 pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Holy Cross Day 9:30 am Worship 10:50 am Kid's Place 11:00 am Adult Forum	ACA 5:30 - 7:45 pm Council Meeting 6:00 pm	NARFE 11 am Bible Study 1:30 pm		Grief Support Group 10:30 am Scouts 7:00 pm		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30 am Worship 10:50 am Kid's Place 11:00 am Adult Forum	First Day of Fall ACA 5:30 - 7:45 pm	Bible Study 1:30 pm		Scouts 7:00 pm		
28	29	30				
9:30 am Worship 10:50 am Kid's Place 11:00 am Adult Forum	ACA 5:30 - 7:45 pm	Bible Study 1:30 pm				



Please email or call Ginny to inform of any changes, updates or wrong information. Thank you, Ginny

Psalm 1: 2, 3

But their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.
They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.

Come to Worship.
Go to Serve.
Embrace the Community.

* For those who are reading this in paper form and would like to receive a link to the letter mentioned on page 2 please email Ginny and she can send it to you.



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Website: www.faithlutheranreno.org

Please send any prayer requests to the Prayer Team at:
prayers@faithlutheranreno.org