

Following Faith Newsletter

Faith Lutheran Church, Reno NV

February 2026

Friends of Faith,

The days are growing longer. Light is creeping back into our Truckee Meadows, minute by minute, as we move deeper into Epiphany. In this period of lengthening days, with earlier sunrises and later sunsets, it's also the liturgical season when we celebrate Christ as the light of the world—and when we ask what it means to walk in that light ourselves.

We brought up the idea of vision and mission statements at our congregational annual meeting. It will be good to revisit what we proclaim together as Faith Lutheran Church.

And it's just wonderful, and challenging, and... exciting that in our Lectionary on the VERY NEXT SUNDAY we get the beginning of Jesus' sermon on the mount. We get the beatitudes—the "blessed are" promises. And they run so counter to the way our world, and so our worldly brains and practices and habits, run!

Jesus announces, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

What might this look like in our lives? The person struggling with doubt about their faith—poor in spirit—finds themselves at home in God's kingdom? The neighbor grieving a loss discovers comfort not in platitudes but in the presence of those who sit with them in silence? The colleague who doesn't claw their way to the top but treats others with gentleness inherits something far more lasting than a corner office? The person burning with a desire for justice, even when it seems impossible, will find themselves satisfied in ways the world can't measure?

Believing Jesus, we believe these promises drive us toward God and community. Jesus goes first and embodies these promises for us all. And then we give them to each other and our neighbors!

We revisit this list of blessed ones, like a vision statement, meeting us in our different needs over times and helping us celebrate the diversity of community. We need the mourner and the meek, the merciful and the peacemaker. We need those hungering for righteousness to wake us up, and those pure in heart to show us what love looks like without agenda.

Here's the beautiful, frustrating truth: we are all always in a walk with God, who redeems us—not the list of things we accomplish or the spiritual disciplines we master. In our daily dying and rising with Christ, we are being made into these promises that serve the world. This is grace at work, shaping us into people who bless rather than conquer, who mourn rather than deny, who seek peace rather than victory.

Thanks be to God for this hard, blessed, life-changing way.

Life growing up! Light in the darkness!,

+ Pastor Shaun

IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

Sunday, Feb 1st - 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.



salt & light

Sunday, Feb 8th - 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Matthew 5 continues, and Christians receive the call to be salt and light, for the gospel means to transform not merely the self or the members of the church, but the entire world. The impossibility of our living such a perfect life makes us rely on the mercy of God and the power of the Spirit.

Sunday, Feb 15th - Transfiguration & Mardi Gras Sunday

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. And we invite our musicians to lead us in a rousing celebration of song leading into the contemplation and discipline of Lent. Mardi Gras Sunday!



Wednesday, February 18th - Ash Wednesday

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ.

Sunday, Feb 22nd - First Sunday in Lent

*Choir Sings this Day!

*The Rite of Welcome is observed for participants in "The Way."

As Lent begins the gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil, and participants of "The Way" here at Faith Lutheran are also taking a catechetical focus on the meaning of faith. We are hungry for mercy that leads us to life.



Faith Formation



“THE WAY”

It's 2026 and it seems our world gets crazier & crazier. Are you looking for a way to cut through the confusion and the noise to find a place of peace. Are your faith batteries fully charged or are you feeling low? Where do you fall on your faith barometer? Are you feeling alone, isolated? Would you like to be more connected with fellow members of your church family? Do you desire an easy yet effective way to study God's Word? Do you want a closer relationship with Jesus Christ?

Faith Lutheran Church has an answer for these questions and more and offers you a personal invitation, “The Way” which is a seven week journey of Faith conducted during the season of Lent and Holy Week. We meet each week after the mid-week soup supper/worship to engage in Bible study through *Lectio Divina, review the core principles of our faith with conversation and reflection in both large and small groups. There are also four public rites on specific Sundays during this journey and together with your personal sponsor you'll not be alone, a fellow member of your church family will walk with you as a mentor and friend.

This is a life changing investment in your faith and in your relationship with your God. Sign ups and more information will be coming soon.

Take a Leap of Faith and walk with us this year in “The Way” of Faith.

Written by Sharon Scagliotti

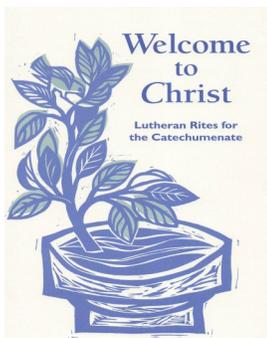
Pastor Shaun's Invitation

Folks, I concur with Sharon and want to add my sincere hope you'll consider joining us on The Way this Lent.

This journey makes room for us as we are, and we are met new by God each time too. Consider making this a time of renewal and discipline for your Lent this year. The only commitment is showing up. The only outcome is what you choose it to be.

Let's talk if you're interested or have questions!

With you,
Pastor Shaun



Attention Young Adults! Sophia G invites you to two Bible Studies this month:

* Young Adults Pub Theology every 1st Thursday at 7pm at **10 Torr** on Mill St. Next event Feb. 5th.

* Young Adult Bible Study every 3rd Thursday at 7pm at Faith Lutheran Church. Next meeting will be Feb 19th. We will be meeting at 7pm and carpooling to the Western Lights Festival.



Tuesday Bible Readers

by Eileen W.

This group meets on Tuesdays at 1:30 in the back of the sanctuary. We read and discuss the lectionary for the following Sunday. You can also join this group on zoom. This is a good way to read the Bible daily and prepare yourself for Sunday.

To find the Lectionary passages Augsburg Fortress puts them in a book Bread for the Day 2026. It is a daily Bible Reading and Prayer Book. You can purchase it from Augsburg Fortress or from Amazon.



Faith Formation

Our Adult Forum, 11am-12noon, continues in February. Leading up to Lent we will finish our series on "The Lutheran People."

Feb 1 - A Look Worldwide!, Feb 8 - Lutheranism Today

Feb 15 - Connecting the Dots: From Then to Now, from Here to There!

Beginning on **Feb 22nd** we'll start in Lent with a learning Video Series from theologian James Alison's "Jesus the Forgiving Victim." It's an invitation to discover something deep: that we are loved far more than we know.



Through readings, videos, and conversation, we'll explore how the crucified and risen Christ approaches us not with condemnation but with forgiveness, calling us away from false securities and anxious goodness into the freedom of being held by God's grace. We'll reconsider what it means to be church together—not as insiders versus outsiders, but as forgiven people learning to receive our identity from the Forgiving Victim in our midst.

Sundays after worship, beginning Feb 22nd! All are welcome.

Fellowship

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, February 7th at 9am



Gentlemen, I'm hosting a Men's Breakfast at the church on Saturday morning, February 7th at 9am. Come for good food, good conversation, and the kind of companionship that happens when we slow down enough to actually check in with one another.

We're a month into the new year now, February almost upon us—so let's gather and talk about where life finds us these days. What's settling in from those January intentions? What's shifting? What are we carrying? We'll get centered with an Epiphany scripture reading and be reminded of our call and blessing to be light in the dark. But mostly this is just a chance to be together, to laugh, to listen, and to remember we're not walking through life alone.

Breakfast is on me. Just bring yourself and maybe a story or two.

See you there,
Pastor Shaun



Fellowship

Faith's Supper Club | Thursday February 26th

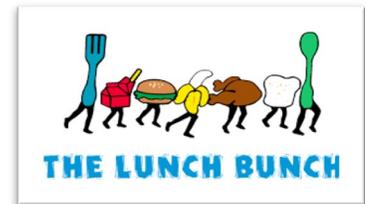
Location: **Applebee's**
on Kietzke Lane

Time: 11:30am to 2pm

We are a group of believers meeting together for Fellowship and a meal. Enjoying each other's company. For more information please contact Jean C.



The Lunch Bunch Group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at noon to share a meal and engage in fellowship. **We will meet February 4th**. Bring a dish to share. It can be a main entrée, salad, desert, bread, or a snack. See Eileen W. for questions.



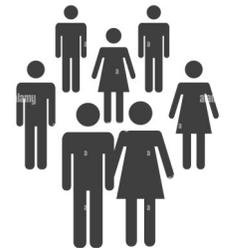
Serving Others

Happy New Year Friends; It's that time of year again for new beginnings, new healthy habits, and new goals. If you're making new year resolutions I encourage you to consider sharing your time and talents with your church. How, you ask? Join the **Altar Guild**. one of the first organized ancient practices in the church, which consists of preparing the altar and worship space for weekly services and communion OR join the **Usher team** who serve a vital yet many times unrecognized service, but keep the flow of the service on track.

But I don't know how? No worries we, your worship team will be happy to show you how to perform these essential duties at your convenience.

So please prayerfully consider joining these teams and you can let me know or get a message to me through the office.

Serve the Lord & your Church in 2026.
Sharon Scagliotti, Worship Chair



Fellowship Team by Eileen W.

The Fellowship Team meets as needed. Our main functions are: Easter Breakfast before the Easter service, a Taco/Bingo evening, Ice Cream Social on Father's Day, The annual BBQ or picnic in August, the Oktoberfest, December Christmas cookie Palooza. We also do funeral receptions. We need to set up and decorate for these events then clean up after the event.

We can always use helping hands to accomplish these events if you would like to help-out let the Fellowship Team know.



Serving Others



Shared Harvest Assembly
 Date February 22nd at St.
 Luke's- Reno

February needs are:

- 28 boxes cold Cereal
- 56 cans of Vegetables
- 42 Powdered milk packets
- 28 Peanut Butter jars
- Unlimited bar soap

Thank you for your generosity to those in need in our community!

Contact Tom L. for more details.

2026 SHARED HARVEST

ASSEMBLY DATES & LOCATIONS at 1:00 p.m.

January 25	St. Luke's--Reno
February 22	St. Luke's—Reno
March 22	Good Shepherd--Reno
April 26	Good Shepherd--Reno
May 17	Lord of Mercy--Sparks
June 28	Lord of Mercy--Sparks
July 26	Holy Cross---Reno
August 23	Holy Cross---Reno
September 27	Our Savior—Sparks
October 25	Our Savior—Sparks
November 22	Faith—Reno
December 20	Faith—Reno

February Worship Schedule 2026

Task	1	8	15	18th Ash Wednesday 6pm	22
Greeter	Judi C	Richard S	Kathy W		Debbie H
Reader	Sigrun C	DavyAnn	Kristine S	Linda Z	Sam S
*Asst. Minister	Judi H	Matthew R	Cole P	Sharon S	Todd M
*Cantor	Wes G	Matthew R	Dan P		Todd M
Usher	Dan P	Sam S	Debbie H	Zack W	Amanda O
*Altar Guild	Eileen W Kathy w	Betty T Annette W	Sharon S Sophia G	O'Reillys	Betty T Annette W
Tech Support	Alex K	Eric W	Alex K	Eric W	Eric W
Musicians	Juliana C Heinz D Olivia K	Juliana C Heinz D Olivia K	Juliana C Heinz D Olivia K		Juliana C Heinz D Olivia K
*Counters	Davyann Alissa	Davyann Sigrun	Sigrun Linda		Linda Theresa
Coffee after Worship	Jean C	Zimmermans	Erica W		O'Reillys

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Worship 10:50am Kid's Place 11am Adult Forum	2 ACA 5:30 - 7:45pm	3 Bible Study 1:30pm	4 Lunch Bunch 12pm	5 Grief Support Group 10:30am Scouts 7pm	6	7 Mens Breakfast 9am
8 9:30am Worship 10:50am Kid's Place 11am Adult Forum	9 ACA 5:30 - 7:45pm	10 Bible Study 1:30pm	11 Memory Care Support 1:30pm 4-H WhipStirs 6:30pm	12 Finance Meeting 12pm Scouts 7pm	13 Bible Study 10:30-12pm	14 Worship Team Meeting 10am 
15 9:30am Worship 10:50am Kid's Place 11am Adult Forum	16 ACA 5:30 - 7:45pm Council Meeting 6pm	17 NARFE 11am Bible Study 1:30pm	18 Ash Wednesday Worship and Communion 6pm	19 Grief Support Group 10:30 am Scouts 7pm	20	21
22 9:30am Worship 10:50am Kid's Place 11am Adult Forum	23 ACA 5:30 - 7:45pm	24 Bible Study 1:30pm	25 Soup Supper 5:30pm	26 Faith's Supper Club 11:30am - 2pm Scouts 7pm	27 Bible Study 10:30-12pm	28





Season of Lent

"Likewise, during Lent, Lutherans also take a 40-day journey (really 46 days, but the six Sundays are not counted). We also take a journey to the cross. We are not sacrificed upon the cross as Jesus was, but we follow Jesus to the foot of the cross and remain with him there like John, Mary and the others who faithfully remained with Jesus when he gave his life for ours. We, too, follow Jesus to the tomb, experiencing the darkness, the stillness, the grief of death. All these things must take place in our hearts, deep in our souls, before we can even begin to appreciate the gift that was truly given to us that first Easter morning. There is no Easter without Good Friday. There is no resurrection for us without Jesus' death on the cross. There is no cross without an intentional Spirit-filled journey.

Jesus took that journey for you and for me. During Lent, we remember that journey. We live that journey so that we may more powerfully live in the truth and joy of our salvation every single day. We embrace that journey so that we more fully embrace the reality of resurrection that awaits all who walk with Christ."

Excerpt from: [Lutheran Lenses](#)

Faith Lutheran Church

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