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| <p><b>FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br/> Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)<br/> PO Box 325 926 West 6<sup>th</sup> Ave<br/> Junction City OR 97448<br/> Office: 541.998.2601 <a href="http://www.faithlutheranjc.org">www.faithlutheranjc.org</a><br/> <b>A Reconciling in Christ Congregation</b></p> |  | <p>Pastor Stuart Holland 971.344.7537<br/> <a href="mailto:pastorstuart@frontier.com">pastorstuart@frontier.com</a><br/> Ed Amundson, Council President<br/> <a href="mailto:brufiato@gmail.com">brufiato@gmail.com</a><br/> Shanti Deck, Music Director</p> |
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## **APRIL Rays of Sunshine**

**March 31, 2024**

Dear Ones in Christ,

The Parable of the Sower needs little introduction, it was the inspiration for a good hymn (“Lord, let my heart be good soil”) and is, unfortunately, the basis of at least one bad sermon on how we need to Be Good Soil. That sermon is right up there with every other ‘earn your way into heaven’ bad idea the church has had over the centuries. This is because, as Luther emphasized, we are saved by God’s action in our lives rather than how good our report card looks.

I bring this up because one of the key doctrinal points of Luther’s understanding of God is that it is God who is the giver. God gives life, and place, and even gives new hearts. It is God’s action which saves us, God who takes our “heart of stone” and gives “a heart of flesh” in its place (Ezekiel 36.23-28, Jeremiah 31.31-34). Thinking about this reality, I was reminded of how soil is made and how this is worth remembering as we walk our life of faith.

All soil starts as rock, hard just-finished-being-molten rock. It’s as impervious as any heart of stone one might care to name. It becomes soil by being broken down into smaller grains of different types and chemistry which combine with organic matter to make soil. The whole chemistry part is not critical, just know that broken rock bits are the basis of soil. And how does the rock break down into particles that become soil? Through the action of water and wind. Each one in their own way breaks rocks into soil.

In the life of faith, we too have water (baptism) and wind (the Holy Spirit) which daily work on our hearts to turn them from rock to flesh. Baptism is our daily ‘when you wash your face, remember your baptism’ affirmation that God has already claimed us, no matter how iffy our spiritual life may be. The Holy Spirit is God at work in us to “daily call, enlighten, and sanctify” us as children of God. So as surely as wind and water are at work to turn granite into loam, so too is God at work in us, turning our lives into good soil.

Or, as Rich Mullins put it so well in his song *The Love of God* “There’s a wideness in God’s mercy I cannot find in my own, and he keeps his fires burning to melt this heart of stone. Keeps me aching with the yearning, keeps me glad to have been caught, in the reckless raging fury that they call the love of God.”

Amen - Pr. Stuart

**Office Hours:** Monday 1-4p & Tuesday 9-Noon; or call, text, email for appointment 971.344.7537  
Email: [pastorstuart@frontier.com](mailto:pastorstuart@frontier.com) Blog: [www.sicutcervus.wordpress.com](http://www.sicutcervus.wordpress.com)

### **Holy Week Worship**

Maundy Thursday March 28, 6:30p at **Faith Lutheran Church**

Good Friday March 29, 6:30p at **JC United Methodist Church**  
**750 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave**





**Community Sunrise Service**  
March 31, 6:30am  
Stroda Bros Tree Farm in Cheshire

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## **Easter Sunday Worship at Faith**

March 31, 10:30am; Coffee hour follows

*"When He arose from the dead, poetry arose with Him, gazed longingly up at Him as He ascended, sang His praise and strove everywhere, in time and in space (in history and in nature) to trace His path and discover glimpses of His splendour." NFS Grundtvig*

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### ***In our Prayers ...***

- **Vicki Glasglow**, brain tumor, surgery, other health issues... Vicki is quilter Edy Relf's friend
- **Linde Wicklund**, health issues
- **Carmen Meza**, breast cancer awaiting surgery, currently in Honduras
- **Parker Ogburn**, awaiting stem cell, Lund's family
- **Lonny Wilson**, brain aneurysm recovery & **Don Wilson**, prostate cancer and heart murmur, Lori Z family
- Teri Fries, Lois Keefer, Ray & Mary Marik, Dan Bachelder, Steve & Janice Fender, Sue Huntley, Sharon Reaves, Mike Shelby

all who protect, defend, feed, and care for others; all in need of healing; and those seeking justice.

Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. Luke 18:1

### **Giving Opportunities**

++Collecting **socks, hats, gloves** and such for those w/o shelter in our area. Gently used or new.

++**Bunches of Lunches** Leave your donations of **fruit cups** and/or **applesauce cups** in the blue tote in the hall. Or donate to BOL. Make check out to Faith Lutheran and indicate the money is for BOL.

++Bring your empty **egg cartons** to the hall, Larry will deliver to Local Aid for use.

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### **MONTHLY POTLUCK**

April 9th at 5:30 in the hall.  
Come join us!!!! Any questions call Sandy G. 541-998-6168.

To the Faith community, thank you!

A couple of months ago, the music committee offered to pay for my Organ lessons with money from the Church's musical education fund. I have been having monthly lessons with Dr. Barbara Baird, in which she helps me with basic organ technique and some hymn playing as well. I wanted to say thank you to all of you for your generosity and support for my musical education!



Thank you also for being so warm and welcoming to me since I started to work at Faith. I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to work in this wonderful community!

Sincerely,  
Shanti

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**Lori Zimmerman** would like to say "Thank You" to everyone for her birthday celebration and all her cards. She feels so blessed to be part of such a loving family of Faith!

# Thank You

**Scott** would also like to say "Thanks" to the council for the nice card and gift card! "You are all very special to me and it was a pleasure to serve with you for 6 years."

**Faith Church Council** 3/12/2024 Highlights

Treasurer's Report--February

Operating Income \$10,567  
Operating Expense \$ 9,966

Election of Officers:

President: Ed Amundson  
Vice Pres: Cynthia Marrs  
Secretary: Dorothy Senchina  
Treasurer: Rosemary Gappa, non-voting  
Financial Sec: Pete Lund, non-voting  
Remaining Members: Teri Fries, Kandy Christiansen

Pastor Report:

- Continues with visits to homebound.
- Will supply pastor at Our Redeemer on 4/14.
- Looking for someone to supply here at Faith the end of April for one Sunday. (Post meeting found Pr. Kim Krogstad to fill in on April 28.)
- New members to Faith this quarter: Joan Koford, Dave & Tami McCormick.
- Lenten Wednesday worship continues at 4pm
- No word from Oregon Synod office regarding approval of our updated Constitution.

New Business:

- Boiler needs maintenance work, approximate cost will be \$1400. M/S/P
- Looking forward to 2024 Scandinavian Festival and our aebleskiver booth participation with the Boy Scouts. Jean and Sandy will be asked to meet with council at the April meeting to clarify the arrangements.
- Scott Zimmerman was thanked and presented with a gift for his hard work and recent years served on council.

Next meeting, April 9, 3:30pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Senchina

[Luther Seminary](#), St. Paul MN  
educates leaders for Christian  
communities around the world.

God Pause from  
5/28/2022

**Woman, Weeping in the Garden** (ACS 935)

Text: Daniel Charles Damon

[Listen Here](#)

1 Woman, weeping in the garden,  
who has pushed the stone aside?  
Who has taken Jesus' body;  
Jesus Christ, the crucified?

2 Woman, waiting in the garden,  
after men have come and gone;  
after angels give their witness,  
silently you watch the dawn.

3 Woman, walking in the garden,  
Jesus takes you by surprise;  
when the gardener calls you, "Mary!"  
faith and joy meet in your eyes.

4 Woman, weeping in the garden,  
weep for joy, for you have seen  
Jesus, the Messiah, risen;  
Christ, of whom the prophets dream.

5 Woman, dancing from the garden,  
find the others and proclaim  
Christ is risen as he promised;  
tell the world he knew your name!

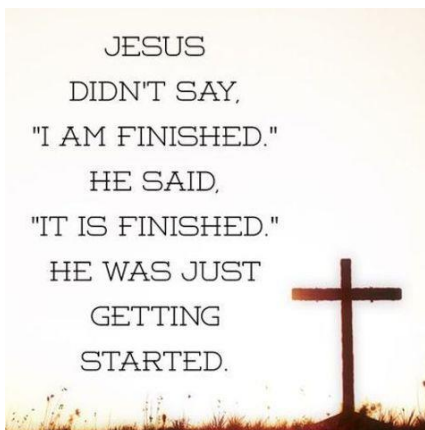
**Devotion**

I was not aware of this hymn until my April 2022 Living Lutheran arrived in the mailbox and my eye was drawn to the Grounded in Grace column and its title, "Mary' EASTER," by Angela !Khabebe. This was not a Merry Christmas story in a December issue of our church periodical. No, this was a song of sorrow that leads to celebration of the Risen Lord. From weeping and waiting in the garden, Mary's heart-journey brings her to Easter's surprise! She hears her name called out by a familiar voice in stanza 3, and "faith and joy meet in her eyes." The rest of her emotional journey is the "weeping for joy" expressed in dance! "Woman, dancing from the garden, find the others and proclaim Christ is risen as he promised; tell the world he knew your name!" The next outdoor Easter Sunrise Service I lead will begin with women weeping in the garden and its ending will be never-ending with everyone weeping for joy!

**Prayer**

Risen Christ, hearts were still heavy that first Holy Saturday when you were in the tomb. Out of the depths we cry to you, but on Easter our tears glisten with joy! Thank You, Risen Jesus! Amen.

Rodney Anderson '74 M.Div. Senior Living Chaplain,  
the Waters of Eden Prairie, MN



**Sharing our Talents** Thank You for serving in whatever capacity you are able. We are all a part of the body of Christ. Contact me to sign up. Jean 541.514.9820

| Date                    | Reader  | Worship Asst | Altar Flowers   | Coffee Hour                       | Custodian, Clean Church & hall by this date |
|-------------------------|---------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Mar 31<br><b>EASTER</b> | Nancy C | Scott        | Joe/Jean Larkin | Cynthia Marrs                     | Judy & Lamae                                |
| Apr 7                   | Cynthia | Cynthia      | J/J Larkin      | Judy Simpson                      | Sandy W & Nancy C                           |
| Apr 14                  | Nancy C | Scott        | Joan & Barb     | Joan Koford, Barbra Estergard     | Sandy, Nancy                                |
| Apr 21                  | Scott   | Scott        | Joan & Barb     | Kandy Christiansen, Sandy Garrett | Ed Amundson/Joan Koford                     |
| Apr 28                  | Sandy W | Scott        | Sandy W         | Lamae Stout & Bonnie Keller       | Ed & Joan                                   |
| May 5                   | Cynthia | Cynthia      |                 |                                   | Rosemary Gappa/Teri Fries                   |
| May 12                  |         |              |                 |                                   | Rosemary/Teri                               |
| May 19                  |         |              |                 |                                   | J & J Larkin                                |

**April**

**Ushers:** Jean & Joe Larkin  
**Altar Guild:** Ed Amundson

**May**

**Ushers:** Dave & Tami McCormick  
**Altar Guild:** Jean & Joe Larkin



**THE QUILTING CORNER...** Meeting 9:30am to 4pm every Thursday, except holidays. LWR could use your sewing, cutting, pinning, and tying abilities! Contact Nancy Clough, [naclough@yahoo.com](mailto:naclough@yahoo.com)

**Easter & April Readings**

**Sun Mar 31 — Easter Day**

Isaiah 25:6-9  
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
 Acts 10:34-43  
 Mark 16:1-8

**Sun. Apr. 7 — Second Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4:32-35  
 Psalm 133  
 1 John 1:1—2:2  
 John 20:19-31

**Sun. Apr. 14 — Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts 3:12-19  
 Psalm 4  
 1 John 3:1-7  
 Luke 24:36b-48

**Sun. Apr. 21 — Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4:5-12  
 Psalm 23  
 1 John 3:16-24  
 John 10:11-18

**Sun. Apr. 28 — Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 8:26-40  
 Psalm 22:25-31  
 1 John 4:7-21  
 John 15:1-8

**About EARTHDAY.ORG:**

EARTHDAY.ORG's founders created and organized the very first Earth Day on April 22, 1970. Since then, EARTHDAY.ORG has mobilized over 1 billion people annually on Earth Day, and every other day, to protect the planet. EARTHDAY.ORG's mission is to diversify, educate, and activate the environmental movement worldwide. Learn more at [EARTHDAY.ORG](http://EARTHDAY.ORG). It's not a day, it's a movement.





**NO BIBLE STUDY ON APRIL 2 & 3**

Lord, though days have been difficult for the whole world recently, we thank you for reminding us that we should not move in fear, but instead move in faith. Our hearts are at ease knowing that you are sovereign over all the earth. We look to you for strength and wisdom in this hard time. Amen

WW = Weight Watchers

APRIL 2024



| Sunday  | Monday             | Tuesday  | Wednesday                             | Thursday                                 | Friday | Saturday  |
|---|--------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|--------|---|
| 31 6:30a Sunrise<br>10:30a Easter Worship  | APRIL 1<br>5-7p WW | 2<br><b>NO</b> Bible Study   | 3<br><b>NO</b> Men's Study            | 4<br>9:30a LWR Quilting & Memory Makers  | 5      | 6   |
| 7<br>10:30a Worship   | 8<br>5-7p WW       | 9<br>3:30p Council Mtg<br>5:30p <b>POTLUCK</b><br>6:30p Bible Study<br><b>Zane Larson BD</b> | 10<br>8a Men's Study/Brkfst           | 11<br>9:30a LWR Quilts & Hens Chicks     | 12     |  |
| 14<br>10:30a Worship<br>2p BSA Festival Mtg   | 15<br>5-7p WW      | 16<br>6:30p Bible Study  | 17<br>8a Men's Study/Brkfst           | 18<br>9:30a LWR Quilting & Memory Makers | 19     | 20<br><b>Pr Stuart BD</b>   |
| 21<br>10:30a Worship  | 22<br>5-7p WW      | 23<br><b>9a INFO due for MAY News</b><br>6:30p Bible Study                                   | 24<br>8a Men's Study/Brkfst           | 25<br>9:30a LWR Quilts & Hens Chicks     | 26     | 27  |
| 28<br>10:30a Worship<br>Pr. Kim Krogstad leads worship  | 29<br>5-7p WW      | 30<br>6:30p Bible Study<br><b>Jesse Knudsen BD</b>   | <b>MAY 1</b><br>8a Men's Study/Brkfst | 2<br>9:30a LWR Quilting & Memory Makers  | 3      | 4<br><b>Gary Keller BD</b>  |

As members of Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA) we affirm that Christ has made us one body with many members, all sharing in God's grace and unconditional love. We celebrate both the diversity and inclusive unity of all people as created by God. Following Jesus' example we embrace all people regardless of ethnicity, physical and mental abilities, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic circumstance.

With welcoming hearts, we invite you into full participation in the life and ministry of our congregation. Faith is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation. For more info, <http://www.reconcilingworks.org/about/>



Send your comments, news, articles, etc to Editor, Jean Larkin [mizzholly@msn.com](mailto:mizzholly@msn.com) 541.514.9820

Easter is the day that changed everything.