



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

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RAYS OF SONSHINE NEWSLETTER for FEBRUARY 2012

Pastor's Letter:

Keeping It Going

Provided that we aren't all washed away by a torrential flood, we will be entering the season of Lent soon, and with it our consideration of our Lenten discipline. I have tried each year to reinforce the concept that Lent is not about giving something up to punish yourself or as some kind of penitence for enjoying life the rest of the year. God does not give a whiff if you give up sweets or if you eat a pound of chocolate a week. God cares about who we are and how we treat one another.

We are creatures of habit. Lent is about building new habits, habits that shape us more into the image of Jesus, habits that reconcile and heal our relationship with God, with the world and with one another. Keep that in mind as you peer ahead toward February 22 and Ash Wednesday.

One of the things you can do for Lent is not just give something up, but take something on, and with that in mind, I want to announce that this year we will again "Read through the Bible in a Year." The program will start on the first Sunday of Lent, February 26. Each month or so I will give you a bookmark that will have all the readings laid out day by day. We will read from the Old Testament and from the New Testament everyday and I will update the blog postings from the last time we did this which reflect on the readings week by week (faithlutheranblog.blogspot.com).

It may seem like a daunting task, but trust me, it only takes about 15 minutes a day to read the assignment. If you fall behind a day or two it's pretty easy to catch up, and by the time Lent rolls around next year you can make a claim few others have: I read the Bible, cover to cover.

Things to remember as you are reading:

1. **The Bible can be confusing:** I would suggest using a modern translation such as the New Revised Standard Version, the Good News Bible, the New International Version or even the "Message" by Eugene Petersen. We have several versions in the library that you can examine before you pick one. You might also consider buying a study Bible, such as the New Oxford Annotated, or the Harper's Annotated Bible. The notes will help you understand what you are reading.
2. **It's not *that* confusing:** Luther said the Bible is a river a lamb can ford, but an elephant will drown in. Don't obsess on the unfamiliar names and places. Remember the characters and what they are trying to do. Listen to the stories, which are usually straight forward when you get down to it. Keep reading, the answer you're looking for might be just around the bend. Don't give up!
3. **Ask questions and take notes:** If something confounds you, the answer is probably out there on the internet or you can always email or call me. Write your questions down and bring them to our gathering. Someone else was probably wondering the same thing.
4. **Come to the discussion:** We'll have some lively discussions when we meet to share how the reading is going! This will be a great time to share your opinions and feelings on the readings, to hear what others encountered, and be encouraged to stick with it. If you missed a reading (or ten), come to see what you missed and catch-up for next month's readings.
5. **Spiritual Practice:** Remember to always be listening for what the Spirit is saying to you. God has spoken to God's people through the Bible for thousands of years. God continues to speak to you today.

So this Lent, don't just give something up, take something on. Join me in reading the Bible this year. You will be glad you did.

Newsletter Editor: Jean A Larkin jean.larkin@or.usda.gov or Mizzholly@msn.com
 Home 541.998.2475 Cell 541.514.9820

Submit your news and items for the MARCH newsletter by Feb 28th to jean.larkin@or.usda.gov

Be sure to update use of the church and hall on the calendar by Pastor's office door.

FEBRUARY Service Schedule *Sign-up sheet on the parish hall bulletin board.*

Date	Lay Reader	Worship Assistant	Altar Flowers	Coffee Hour	Custodians – Have church & hall cleaned by this date
Feb 5	Scott Z	Scott Z			Enola N, Irene L, Sandy W
Feb 12	Irene Lund		Larkin's	Larkin's	Judy S – Ruth N
Feb 19	Enola N.	Cynthia M		Carl & Enola Nielsen	Larkin's
Feb 22 Ash Wednesday			No flowers/Lent	N/A	N/A
Feb 26	Cynthia M	Cynthia M	No flowers/Lent	Guillory's	Irene F – Dorothy H – Carol D
Mar 4	Jean L	Scott Z	No flowers/Lent		Edna & Ed Amundson

FEBRUARY

Ushers: Tom & Teri Fries
Altar Guild: Joe & Jean Larkin

MARCH

Ushers: Zane & Erma Larson
Altar Guild: Dorothy Hansey & Mara Taylor

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR DECEMBER

Operating Income \$ 8079
 Operating Expense \$ 9303

The Lutheran Magazine: Did you know that our congregation pays for subscriptions to *The Lutheran* magazine? You can help defray the cost by adding an extra \$8 to your next offering, designated for that cost. Individual subscriptions cost \$18; you're getting a real bargain!



Another wonderful **Danish Christmas Party** was enjoyed on Jan 8th... thank you Danish Ladies Aid and all who assisted!!

New visitors to the party (via Portland and Roseburg) expressed their thanks...

"I want to thank you and all the people involved in the Danish Christmas Party. It was really fun to be there and we all appreciated the great effort that was put into the successful afternoon. We felt very welcome. Our daughter Ida emailed when they got home that Luca really enjoyed it. She loved the sandwiches, rice pudding and getting the almond was a pleasant surprise. She also got the almond at our home on Christmas Eve. Lorna, Ida's friend, also enjoyed the time and Ida said she loved singing in Danish. Knud also loves to sing in Danish and I gave it a valiant try and so enjoy hearing the Danish. Knud and I send a very big thank you to everyone."

-Paula Larsen

GAME NIGHT is **Feb 10** at the Larkin's, 7 pm. Bring finger snacks, drink of choice, games!! Questions? Joe/Jean 541.998.2475

1ST TUESDAY POTLUCK/SPEAKER – FEB 7th

Sandy Garrett – 541.998.6168

Share in a Potluck Supper at 6 pm



At 7 pm the speaker will be **Judy de Szoeko** speaking on her experiences living and teaching in Hungary. Judy is a retired math instructor at Linn-Benton Comm. College and lives in Corvallis.

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ comfort the Family and Friends who mourn the loss of these Loved Ones:

Verna Martinsen
Ethel Nygren
Claire Riesselmann

In Our Prayers:

Burke Jones, advanced colon cancer
Betty Streed, ovarian cancer
Lynn Engel, Sandy G friend, health concerns
Larry Larson, surgery recovery
Frank Fries, Tom's Dad with health issues
Ingrid Autumn Rose, Linda W's daughter, for her baby, her safety, and spiritual guidance
Dorothy Senchina, Julie Jensen, Ethel Vogt, health issues
Vic & Lois Nielsen, adjustment to move
Ashlie Chrowl, Wubit's friend, brain trauma/recovery
Mildred Guillory, Ken Van Devender, Ken Ambers, Dick Jones, Harriet Grunewald, Gary Garrett, Duane & Rose Van Devender all for health concerns
Mike Ogan, Vic Bender, Jack Ogan's family, health concerns
Mark Mares & Jon Lockett, Marie Lockett's family, health concerns
Roy Maars, Frank's brother, recovery
Collin Randall, for family concerns
Edie Relf & Ruth Buckley, quilters w/ health concerns
Grant Stephens, aneurysm, recovery
Shari Pierce, Sandy G's sister, cancer
Bonnie Miller, health concern
Beverly La Grange, John Chappelle, & Susan Tapia, Jim C's friends/family with health issues
Beth Westcott, daughter of Pastor Currens, cancer
Pam McNight, Michelle's cousin, lung tumor
Jones Family, Howard Peterson, Karen Lemieux, Gillie Bennett, Carol Meyers, Bobette Peterson: Mara's friends with health concerns
Kristina Barrett, grand-daughter of Pastor B's former pastor, soft tissue cancer
Larry Rasmussen, family of Ed/friend of Ken, cancer
Fran LaPerna, Nancy C friend, surgery complications
Karen Guzman, Carol Deskines' cousin, Parkinson's
Norine, friend of Irene Ferris, health concerns
Marilyn & Dale Huth, Don, Shawn & Jason Wilson, Ed Zimmerman, Wanda Curtis, Renee Van Norman, Don Putnam: Scott & Lori's family/friends with health concerns
Those in military service: Diane, Paul, Dale & Dane

DIRECTORY UPDATE:

ETHEL BECK
500 E 6TH AVE #115
JUNCTION CITY OR 97448

LENTEN SERVICES



Ash Wednesday Service

February 22

6:00 pm

Join us as we enter this season of self reflection and growth.

Mid-Week Supper & Service:

As we did last year, congregation members will talk about their faith story and what brought them to Faith Lutheran.

We'll have a simple meal at 5:30 pm followed by a short service at 6:15 pm.

VERNA MARTINSEN died January 21st at the age of 105. Verna was a long time member of Faith; she moved to Gresham in 1985 to live with her daughter, Evelyn & Dennis Troxel.



Verna maintained connections with Faith and many of its members over the years. It was Verna's husband Bill who made the 24 hole electric aebleskiver pan we use in the booth during the Scandinavian Festival!

2012 USHER SCHEDULE

JANUARY	JOE & JEAN LARKIN
FEBRUARY	TOM & TERI FRIES
MARCH	ZANE & ERMA LARSON
APRIL	PETE & IRENE LUND
MAY	ERIC & KATIE MENARD
JUNE	JACK OGAN & IRENE FERRIS
JULY	LES & LOIS GREGERSEN
AUGUST	ANYONE AVAILABLE
SEPTEMBER	CARL & ENOLA NIELSEN
OCTOBER	SANDY & GREG GARRETT
NOVEMBER	FRANK MARRS & ED AMUNDSON
DECEMBER	LARRY & NANCY CLOUGH

Talk to Les Gregersen with changes that need to be made. 541.998.6625

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – January 10, 2012

Present: Pastor Brennen, Frank Marrs, Gary Keller, Greg Garrett, Nancy Clough, Sandy Garrett

Called to order at 7:00 pm by Frank; **Opened** the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the December 2011 meeting accepted as written.

Treasurers report: Nancy presented the proposed budget for this year; Voted to present the budget at the annual meeting as written.

Pastor's Report January 2012

Education: **1.** Men's Bible Study continues at 7:30 on Wednesdays. We will be picking up a longer term study after the Bishop's Convo next week. **2.** Confirmation continues to meet, though the schedule has been very flexible. We are about finished with Mark and in the middle of John. We will begin study of the Small Catechism next.

Worship: **1.** Thanks to everyone for making Christmas a blessed time this year. Considering we had two services to choose from we had good attendance at both. **2.** I am working on Lenten mid-week services. As in the past I will be asking people to share a bit about their lives and how they ended up at Faith.

Miscellaneous: **1.** Thanks to everyone who made donations for Christmas birds to Local Aid. All together we raised \$550. **2.** The Bishop's Convention will be held at Cannon Beach from January 16-18. I will be out of the office on those days. **3.** Jim Morrell will be coming to speak to our congregation about becoming a Reconciling in Christ Congregation on January 15 after church. The group that worked on the welcoming statement felt that some more work needed to be done on this issue before bringing a resolution to the annual meeting as there was confusion on what being an RIC entailed. **4.** I would like to bring a resolution to make a change to one of the by-laws in our constitution to the annual meeting as well. The resolution would be in line with some of our previous discussion around the number of council members who serve. **5.** I will be taking a week off at the end of April to visit Toronto for a concert.

Pastoral counseling estimate: Hospital: 1 Nursing Home/Residential Center: 3 Counseling: 25

New Business:

Larry & Nancy Clough will be our voting representatives at the Synod Convention April 27 to 29 in Bend.

Adjourned with Lord's Prayer at 7:35.

Submitted by Sandy Garrett

CURRENT CLEANING CREWS:

Edna & Ed Amundson
Lori Zimmerman & Marie Lockett
Bonnie & Gary Keller
Nancy Clough, Greg & Sandy Garrett
Brennen & Michelle Guillory
Enola Nielsen, Irene Lund, Sandy Wiese
Judy Simpson & Ruth Nelson
Joe & Jean Larkin
Irene Ferris, Dorothy Hansey, Carol Deskines

Can you be added to our list of those who clean the church and hall?? Each group takes a week. Many hands make the work lighter! Please talk to Jean Larkin.



READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Beginning in Lent you are invited to join Pastor Brennen and other congregation members in reading through the Bible in a year.

You will be provided with a schedule and there are blog postings each week which are reflections on the readings. We will meet together once or twice a month to discuss how the reading is going and to address questions and observations.

More details to come.

FEBRUARY 2012

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
29 9:15 am Confirmation 10:30 am Worship POTLUCK & Annual Meeting after church	30 7 pm Weight Watchers	31	FEB 1 7:30 am Men's Study & Breakfast 6:00 pm Worship/Music Comm. Mtg 7:00 pm Choir	FEB 2 1-4 Memory Makers	FEB 3 ENOLA NIELSEN BD	FEB 4 DOROTHY SENCHINA BD
5 9:15 am Confirmation 10:30 am Worship	6 7 pm Weight Watchers	7 6 pm POTLUCK 7 pm SPEAKER Judy de Szoeki PETE DRONGESEN BD	8 7:30 am Men's Study & Breakfast 7:00 pm Choir	9 10-12 Hens & Chicks	10 7 pm Game Night at Larkin's MARY HARADA BD PAIGE MENARD BD	11
12 9:15 am Confirmation 10:30 am Worship	13 7 pm Weight Watchers	14 7 pm Council	15 7:30 am Men's Study & Breakfast 7:00 pm Choir	16 1-4 Memory Makers	17 TOM FRIES BD	18
19 9:15 am Confirmation 10:30 am Worship DLA meets during coffee hour	20 7 pm Weight Watchers 7 pm Mutual Ministry Comm at Jean's MARY GREGERSEN BD	21	22 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:30 am Men's Study & Breakfast 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm Choir	23 10-12 Hens & Chicks VIC NIELSEN BD	24	25
26 9:15 am Confirmation 10:30 am Worship	27 7 pm Weight Watchers LOIS GREGERSEN BD	28 NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE by Noon	29 7:30 am Men's Study & Breakfast 5:30 pm Supper 6:15 pm Lent Service 7 pm Choir	MAR 1 1-4 Memory Makers	MAR 2	MAR 3

Pastor Brennen's Office Hours: Mon & Wed 10 am – 3 pm & Thurs 10 am – 12 pm or call 998-2601 for an appt

RAYS OF SONSHINE – FEBRUARY 2012

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Church and Life is a periodical which seeks to be consistent with the philosophy and theology of **N.F.S. Grundtvig**. While the publication's roots are Danish and Lutheran, its readers and contributors include many who are neither.

The culture of the "Happy Danes" was experienced in the United States by immigrants committed to the Danish folk tradition of the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church, later to become the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. While the folk church of ***Church and Life*** has not existed as an entity for more than 40 years, much of its spirit continues. (Read more of the history, <http://www.churchandlife.org/history.htm>)

Walter Capps, theologian and congressman (1934–1997), characterized the Grundtvigian tradition as: 1. Affirmation of life; 2. Staying as close to nature as possible; 3. The goodness and beauty of ordinary life; 4. Lifelong learning and education

Church and Life publishes poems, stories, book reviews and editorials which articulate these values.

Grundtvig is known for his famous phrase: "Human first; then Christian." Our common humanity is the basis for freedom, equality and dignity. Christ is found in the living community rather than in any book. Personal freedom and community are of the highest value. Sermons and articles published in *Church and Life* reflect this tradition.

Church and Life is published monthly (15th) by the Danish Interest Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. **Past copies of Church and Life are in the Parish Hall library for your enjoyment.**

(Information from the Church and Life website at www.churchandlife.org)



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.