



Faith Abounds!

A Monthly Publication of Faith Lutheran Church

November 2024

November 2024 – From the Pastor’s Desk

What do elections have to do with gratitude and thanksgiving? They are a reminder that we are blessed to have the opportunity to vote for our leaders and ballot measures. No matter the results of the election we are a community of faith, each with our unique point of view, to gather in worship and to serve the Lord, who come together in worship and service with gratitude for all that God provides for us each day.

I am reminded of Ann Voskamp’s book, *One Thousand Gifts*, which invites us to let go of our pride and fear and to trust in God for all things and to note our blessings each day – the big and the small – the warmth of sunshine on our face and the privilege to have a say in our government – with gratitude and thanksgiving.

Pastor Pam

Council Notes:

Painting is completed! The exterior of the church buildings and the inside of the sanctuary now have a fresh look. The pews have been reconfigured to create a children’s area at the back of the church, and areas for walkers and electric scooters at the front. Ginny Wegenast is designing an informative and attractive bulletin board for the entryway/narthex of the church.

The Birthday Celebration Potluck will now be quarterly, in the middle month of the quarter.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner. We wish you a wonderful holiday with family and friends!!

Holly Sullivan

Holiday Help

Faith Foodbank will be handing out Holiday Help forms every Friday during Foodbank hours of 10:30-noon. Forms must be returned by November 15th. Distribution of Thanksgiving food will be the week of Nov 18-22. Distribution of Christmas food/gifts will be December 9-20.

NO GUARANTEES!!!!

We will try our best. Volunteers are needed desperately. Contact Roxana 425-971-0402

Readings for November

Nov 3-- Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24; **Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44**

Nov 10-- 1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; **Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44**

Nov 17--Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16; **Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25; Mark 13:1-8**

Nov 24--Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

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The newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church is published each month for the life of the people of God at Faith Lutheran and our community.

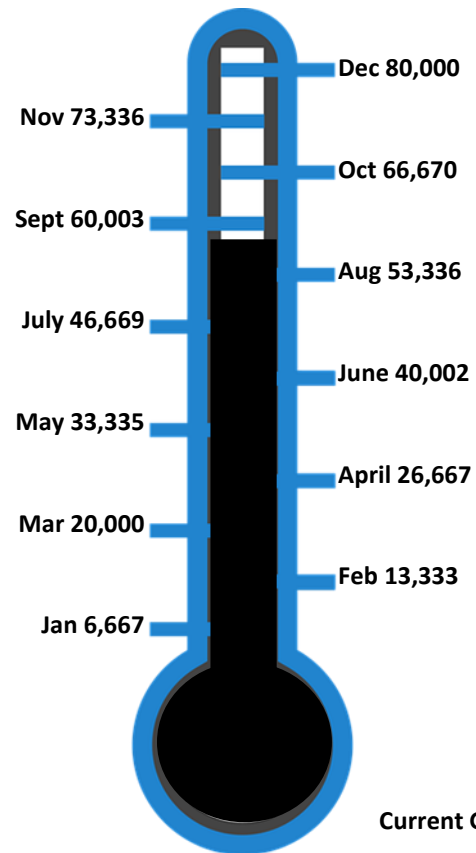
Office Staff: *Suzanne Gabbard—onsite Tuesdays*
Pastor Pam Karas—onsite Tuesdays and Sundays

Office Days/, okease give to an usher, Suzanne in the office at 425-353-4758 or Paul at 425-258-2708
 Hours: *Tuesdays 10am–2pm*

(Please note office hours may vary)

Faith Lutheran Church
 Council
 President, Holly Sullivan
 Vice-President, David Myers
 Secretary, Ginny W.
 Treasurer, Mary Larson
 Ella Tuininga, Nancy Sunde, Ginni Hull.
 Pastor Pam Karas
 Council minutes are available in the office: if you would like them emailed to you, call or email the office.

Contributions To Date 2024
(Yearly Goal \$80,000)



Current Giving



Set your clocks back 1 hour before bed Nov 2nd



Daylight-Saving Time Ends

Community Meal Schedule

Open: November 5, 12 & 19

Closed: November 26

Open: December 3, 10 & 17

Closed: December 24 & 31

Food Bank Schedule

Open: November 1, 8, 15 & 22

Closed: November 29th

Open: December 6 & 13

Closed: December 20 & 27

Dear Beloveds,

As the election season is here – and for many, your vote has already been cast – I have been doing some reflecting on what it means to vote as a Lutheran Christian. Please know that I am not telling you who to vote for in this election. It is not for me to tell you who to vote for. I mean, after all, God is neither Republican or Democrat, or even American.

But in saying that, I am not abdicating the responsibility that we have as Lutheran Christians who live in a country where voting matters. As children of God, we are called to vote beyond our own self-interest or individuality. As people who follow Jesus, we are called towards God's vision of a just and mercy-filled world. As people who have received grace upon grace, we are called to stand against injustice, and to remind everyone that, in God's eyes, every single person is loved and beloved.

So, here are a few thoughts and questions:

1. Jesus is all about loving one's neighbor. Even when it is hard. When he is asked, "Who is my neighbor," Jesus expands his answer beyond imagination. In Jesus' stories and actions he constantly goes to those who are on the outside, those marginalized, those without status, and shows how they are loved by God – how they are, in fact, his neighbor.

As you vote: Who is your neighbor?

2. Throughout scripture, hospitality to the stranger is embraced. In the Old Testament, the command to welcome strangers is repeated 37 times. In Matthew 25:35 Jesus says, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

As you vote: Who is the stranger?

3. God's will and God's calling is towards equity and justice for those who have been silenced, oppressed, or harmed. As we hear in Isaiah, "Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, and plead for the widow."

As you vote: Who are the silenced, the oppressed, the harmed?

4. The eighth commandment declares that we are called to not bear false witness against our neighbor. This, of course, means not lying about another. This means no name-calling or false accusations. But it goes beyond this. As Martin Luther tells us in his Small Catechism, we are to defend our neighbor, speak well of our neighbor, and explain everything in the kindest way.

As you vote: Who is speaking truth?

5. God created this beautiful earth and declared that we are both part of the creation and are also called to be stewards. As we read in the ELCA social statement, Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice, we affirm that it is God's intention for the healing and wholeness of creation.

As you vote: Who is caring for creation?

Dear Beloveds of God, there is so much more that could be written about the state of the country and what voting means. We could make this all complicated and intricate and difficult. (And to be fair, the United States sometimes feels shaky and unmoored). But truly it comes down to this: God's love is unconditional and unending. Jesus came to this earth to show, to embody, to be God's love for us and for all people. And so, knowing this, trusting this, believing this, we are called. We are called, as baptized and sent children of God, to show this love to the world. We are called to vote against hate. We are called to vote for God's love. As we hear in 1 John, There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear ... We love because God first loved us.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee bishop@lutheransnw.org



Serving us in Worship for November



Assisting Minister (Reader) Nov 3—Ginny W. Nov 10—Mary Nov 17—Paul Nov 24—Andrea	Ushers Nov 3—Roger Nov 10—Ella Nov 17—Ella Nov 24—Roger	Offering Counters Nov 3—Andrea/Roger Nov 10—Jennifer/Holly Nov 17—Nancy/Susan Nov 24—Andrea/Roger
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Streamers Nov 3—Jennifer Nov 10—Jennifer Nov 17—Roger Nov 24—Jennifer	Altar Guild Nov 3—Ginny W. Nov 10—Susan Nov 17—Ginny W. Nov 24—Susan	Coffee Hosts Nov 3—Nancy Nov 10—Holly Nov 17—Andrea Nov 24—Ginny W.	Deacons Nov 3—David Nov 10—Stan Nov 17—Roger Nov 24—David
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November Birthdays



Happy Birthday to...

6—Sonja
10—Ben
14—Karen
18—Holly



Please continue to hold the following friends in prayer....



We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.

2 Thess 1:3

We pray for our friends and family who are sick, have loved ones who have passed, or those in need of comfort.

If you have prayer concerns please contact Pastor Pam at 425-870-5335 or the church office at 425-353-4758. For the confidential prayer chain: contact Ella at (425) 231-2072 or email: getuininga@gmail.com

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