



# Faith Abounds!

A Monthly Publication of Faith Lutheran Church

April 2025

## April 2025– From the Pastor’s Desk

I have been thinking about unanswered questions a lot these past weeks in Lent. There has been a theme in our readings – Jesus tells a story, that feels complete (beginning, middle, and end) until you stop to think about it. For example, there were the Galileans who were murdered in the temple while offering a sacrifice to God, but Jesus doesn’t answer the unasked question “why.” Why do bad things happen to good people? And why is Jesus’ response to remind his listeners to turn back to God because we don’t know how much time each of us has, as in the case of the fig tree (Luke 13:6-9).

We often don’t have all of our questions answered or a situation resolved. In the story of the Prodigal Son we don’t know if the family is reunited. These stories don’t leave us hanging as much as they leave us wondering and imagining them playing out in our lives. Jesus’ stories invite us to reflect on relationships and commitments as we walk alongside him towards the cross.

Pastor Pam

## Council Notes:

At the March Council meeting, as Holly Sullivan had completed her term on the Council, Ella Tuininga was elected President. Diane Scott was elected to the Council at the Annual Congregation meeting, and began her term .

The Council

## Photos for Directory

I will be in the fellowship hall during coffee hour on Sundays to take pictures for the Church Directory starting on March 23.

If you have a picture you prefer, please send it to [vjwegenast@comcast.net](mailto:vjwegenast@comcast.net) or give it to me and I will scan it a get it back to you.

Thank you so much for helping me put this together.

Ginny Wegenast

## Readings for April

April 6--Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

April 13--Luke 19:28-40; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14—23:56

April 20--Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Luke 24:1-12

April 27--Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29; OR Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

**Faith Lutheran Church**  
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Facebook: Everett Faith Lutheran Church

*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/Hours: *Tuesdays 10am–2pm*

*(Please note office hours may vary)*

**Sunday Morning Worship:**

*10:30am- Worship Service (online and in person)*

Faith Lutheran Church Council

President, Ella Tuininga

Vice-President, David Myers

Secretary, Ginny W.

Treasurer, Mary Larson

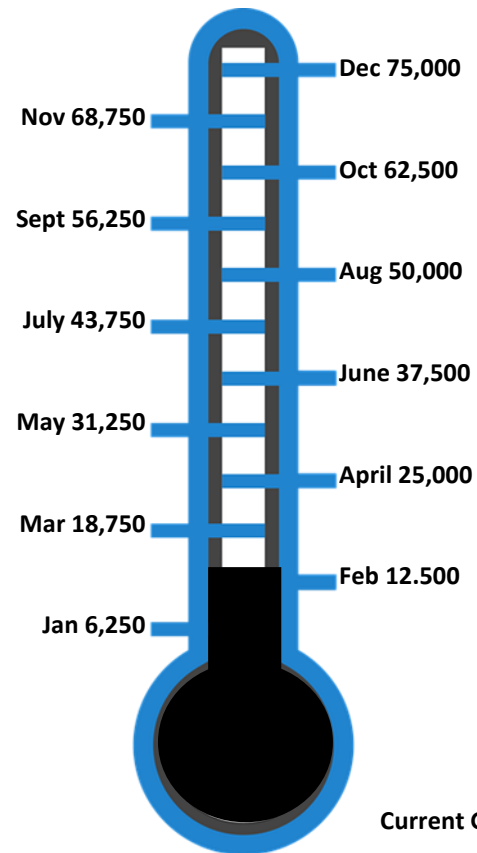
Nancy Sunde, Ginni Hull, Diane Scott,

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 2025**

**(Yearly Goal \$75,000)**



Current Giving



**Church Directory Photos**

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Ginny Wegenast

**Easter Flowers**

Easter flowers may be brought on or before Easter, Sunday, April 20th.



Please fill out the back of the green attendance form if you would like to include a name (s) to recognize in memory or honor.

**From the Bishop:**

**April 2025**

As you probably know, thousands of bison once roamed the plains of North America. In the late 1800s they were almost brought to extinction. Thankfully, due to conservation efforts, bison are back in the United States plains – even if they aren't nearly as ubiquitous as they once were.

You probably also know that bison are the largest mammals in North America. Male bison (called bulls) can weigh up to 2,000 pounds and stand 6 feet tall, while females (called cows) weigh up to 1,000 pounds and can reach a height of 4-5 feet. Bison calves weigh 30-70 pounds at birth. These are large and powerful creatures.

But even though bison are formidable, the plains can still be dangerous. Their main predators are wolves and mountain lions (what we in the west call cougars), who prey on the weak and the slow – like young bison. Bison typically run when they sense danger, but when predators approach without warning, bison form a multilayer circle of protection. The cows form a ring around the young, and the bulls form an outer ring surrounding the cows.

Just picture this for a moment. A wolf is coming ... the bison cannot run anywhere. And instantly, instinctively, they corral their young in the middle, the females encircle the young, and the males encircle the females. The two rings facing outward. It is a pretty powerful picture. The bison community automatically protects those who cannot protect themselves.

May I ask why we, as humans, seem to do a worse job of protecting the vulnerable than bison? We know God's imperative from Genesis to Revelation. I mean, who did the prophets cry out for? The laborer, the prisoner, the widow, the orphan, the foreigner, the enslaved, the marginalized. Who did Jesus heal? The blind, the deaf, the paralyzed, the bleeding, the possessed, the outcast, the sinner, the forgotten. Again and again, God calls for each beloved person to be held safe – to be provided for and protected – and, when necessary, for those able, to encircle those who are defenseless, especially those society has called expendable.

This is the call God places on each of us – to protect and care for the most vulnerable. Yet, we are witnessing and experiencing the opposite in our society and through government actions. Beloveds in Christ, do not be deceived. When food assistance and benefits are slashed, the vulnerable are left defenseless. When rights are stripped away from women, people of color, the LGBTQ+ community, immigrants, and others, they are being cast to the wolves. Jesus himself warns in Matthew 7, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”

As followers of Jesus, in these times that may bring discouragement or a sense of being overwhelmed, in these times when it feels wolves are coming at you or for someone you love, may you feel encircled in love and protection – even as you are called to encircle others. May we advocate, love boldly, and protect those who are most at risk. Let us take heart in the promise of God's justice and mercy. Let us be a people who uplift the weary, feed the hungry, and shelter the displaced. May we be a church that embodies Christ's compassion and courage, refusing to look away, refusing to be silent, refusing to let the wolves win. For all people are beloved in God's eyes.

I close with this. I have a little miniature bison on my desk in my office. I look at it often to remember that I am protected by God and that I am called by God. May you remember – as a baptized and beloved child of God, God has called you in this time and in this place. And you are not alone. For even as you protect others, God protects you. Amen

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee  
bishop@lutheransnw.org



## Serving us in Worship for April



<b>Assisting Minister (Reader)</b> April 6—Ginny W. April 13—Sonja April 20—David April 27—Mary	<b>Ushers</b> April 6—Ella April 13—Ella April 20—Roger April 27—Ella	<b>Offering Counters</b> April 6—Andrea/Holly April 13—Nancy/Susan April 20—Andrea/Roger April 27—Andrea/Holly
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<b>Streamers</b> April 6—Krista April 13—Roger April 20—Jennifer April 27—Krista	<b>Altar Guild</b> April 6—Ginny W. April 13—Susan April 20—Ginny W. April 27—Susan	<b>Coffee Hosts</b> April 6—Holly April 13— April 20— April 27—Ginny W.	<b>Deacons</b> April 6—Roger April 13—Roger April 20—David April 27—Stan
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### April Birthdays



**BIRTHDAYS**  
THIS MONTH

### Happy Birthday to...

3—Jennifer  
7—Rick  
8—Elsa  
9—Bronwen  
26—Gracie & Anna

**LEGENDS**  
*we*  
**BORN**  
*in*  
**APRIL**

### 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](mailto:getuininga@gmail.com)*

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