



FEBRUARY 2024

“Faith is a welcoming community, *growing closer to and more like Jesus...*”
(Faith Vision, 2022).

“‘Follow me,’ Jesus said...” (Mark 1:17, 2:14)

Literally, as I sat down to write this article, I was interrupted by a stranger, an African American woman driving a car with Texas license plates. She introduced herself as Jacqueline, and told me she was doing research for a book. Curious, I invited her to sit down and ask me her questions.

She first asked about how the church receives and tracks cash donations (interesting question). Then she began asking questions about my attitude toward persons who are homeless, and about people who come to the church looking for help, and the ways this congregation provides help (or doesn’t).

I was proud and excited to tell her about how we practice hospitality, how we provide gas cards and other forms of assistance. I told her about our partnerships with local helping agencies such as Community Lifeline, Love INC., CIELO, and Youth Connection.

Then she asked me a couple of compelling questions: “Why is the church willing to receive cash donations from strangers, but not willing to give cash gifts to strangers?” And “why do you assume that these helping agencies are more trustworthy recipients of church funds than the very people asking for help?”

Let me be clear: I AM proud of our community partners, and grateful for their tireless efforts to make Mason County a better and safer place for everyone. I am proud of this congregation and its generosity to its neighbors in need. I think we do a decent job. I think there is a need for boundaries.

But Jacqueline’s questions had the convicting scent of the Holy Spirit in them. This was about ME, and about my complacency, and my faithfulness. I preach how Christ is in every person that I meet. This truth has implications, though. She reminded me that every time I turn a person away without helping them, I am turning away Christ, denying Christ resources that were given expressly for his purposes!

She left me a card that included these words: “Be mindful that Jesus Christ humbled Himself and walked this earth as a homeless, poor man. God could send anyone to test you, especially those you least expect, since the Lord tests hearts (Proverbs 17:3), as He continues His work to end the oppression of the poor, which He seeks to accomplish by continuing to challenge those who are financially fortunate enough to help those who are in need...”

I’m still processing that conversation, and its ramifications for my life and ministry. God has a way of sending prophets, messengers, and angels to teach us when we least expect it (or even when we have a newsletter article to write!) Following Jesus means being like him AND seeing him in every person we meet. May we be always generous to strangers. May we see Christ in one another, especially in the least, the last, the lost, the lonely, and the left behind. And may God never allow us to become too comfortable with “the way we’ve always done things.”

–Pastor Doug

Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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LOVE WELL READING GROUP

Monthly, Second Sundays beginning March 10, 11:30am to 1:30pm

Online, Second Saturdays, 10 to 11:30am

Beginning with an introduction to each other and our first authors in March, enjoy some of the best fiction and non-fiction reading for growing, stretching, and even resting your spiritual muscles in a monthly book club facilitated by Pastor Brenda. Regular attendance NOT required. On Sundays we'll take turns providing soup or salad and bread to make this a lunch meeting. **Call or text 406.381.1919 or email brenda@faithshelton.org to inquire or sign up.** Purchase your own book at your favorite local bookseller.



With an eye to Black History Month, our first book is *The Very Good Gospel: How Everything Wrong Can Be Made Right*, by Lisa Sharon Harper. Writing on the pivotal biblical concept of shalom, Harper engages American history and Evangelical Christianity with power and integrity—this is a faith-shaping read!

Coming up: Learning to *Walk in the Dark*, Barbara Brown Taylor; *The Road Back to You*, Suzanne Stabile (personality styles), *Let Your Life Speak*, Parker Palmer, and awesome suggestions from participants.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH!!!

- **Intergenerational Grub & Games**, February 7 and March 6, 6:00 - 7:30pm. Dinner and games ages 6 to 86. Thanks to National Alliance on Mental Illness for the pizza and support!
- **Ash Wednesday**, February 14, 6pm
Service of Prayer, Imposition of Ashes, and Holy Communion in the Sanctuary. (Concurrent in the Fellowship Hall, Connection Street Theater Valentine's Dinner Theater.)
- **LENT WEDNESDAYS BEGIN FEBRUARY 21** featuring...
 - **Worship, 6:00pm**
 - **Soup Supper, 6:30**
 - **Community Service Partners/Youth Group, 7:00 – 7:45**

Slow down and catch your breath midweek with a lovely, singable evening prayer service new to our congregation from Holden Village: Bless this Night. Stay for soup and bread (or hot dogs ;o), then connect with the terrific work of Faith's community service partners in 45-minute forums while our youth group does their thing.

LENT WEDNESDAY PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

- February 21: Great Bend Center for Music
- February 28: National Alliance on Mental Illness
- March 6: Connection Street Theater, Intergenerational Theater Game Night
- March 13: Love, Inc. and The Youth Connection
- March 20: Agua Viva Internacional



PASTOR BRENDA TO HELP A CONGREGATION IN NEED

Pastor Brenda has been asked to consider helping at St. John's Lutheran, Chehalis, as their p: pastor, providing preaching, pastoral leadership, and at least one day a week of office presence to St. John's. This would be in addition to her current call and hours here at Faith.

If she goes to work in Chehalis, Brenda will continue to lead Faith's Wednesday ministries (youth group & parents, evening worship, and young adults), keep office hours and help out with pastoral care "and other duties as assigned." While most of her Sundays would be in Chehalis, she intends to worship at Faith monthly. This interim would begin March 1 and likely be a six month commitment.

While Faith would miss Brenda's gifts and experience on Sunday mornings, Faith has others who can take on Sunday morning duties in her place. It is also a reminder that Faith is part of the larger church, and is called to be generous, not only with our giving, but with our sharing of resources.

HEALING FROM LOSS - SPRING, 2024

Grief is the pain that we experience deep within our hearts after someone we love dies. This heartbreak of loss wounds us physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. It is so important for us to experience healing for our losses if we are to live whole and abundant lives again, and it is for this reason that we offer the seminar, = "Healing from Loss".

Everyone is welcome to come and check out this opportunity to explore one's life history of losses, and find help in transforming them into assets for compassion and joy. We meet each week in person on Thursdays at 2:00pm in the 3 Door room at the church, and also online by Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7:00. There is no cost to register for these sessions, but a donation of \$25.00 may be made for the materials.

For more information, check with the church office, or contact Terry Oliver at 253-732-1869 (cell) or terryro@hcc.net (email)

THE HISTORICAL JESUS

Topic of Faith Lutheran Bible Study in 2024

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 11:15 A.M. IN THREE-DOOR-ROOM

Have you had a chance to check out the Adult Study group that meets each Sunday morning following worship? We are just beginning the series called "*The Search for the Historical Jesus.*" Our lecturer is Jean-Pierre Isbouts. The moderators are Tyger and Todd Penson.

On February 4, our specific topic is: "Mary and Joseph in Galilee." What was it like to live as a Galilean under Herod the Great?

On February 11, we will consider "The birth of Jesus." Only Luke and Matthew give us the news that Mary was pregnant before she and Joseph were married, yet each goes about it in a different way.

On February 18 and February 25, we will move away from our series briefly while we have two special forums. On the 18th Terry and Doris Oliver will discuss Palestine as a nation as it is today. On the 25th Bill and Dorina Sleep will show pictures and talk about the trip they (and others from Faith Lutheran) took some years back. These two presentations will give us "hands on" looks of the land we now call "The Holy Land."

We hope you will join us. We are learning much and having a good time doing so!



2ND MONDAY ADULT BRUNCH

Will meet Monday, February 12th in the Fellowship Hall from 10:30 AM TO 1:00 PM

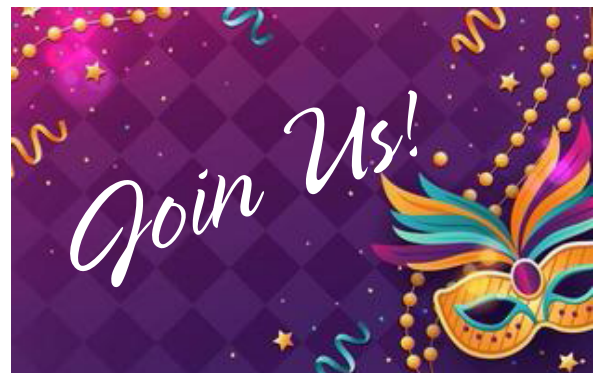
All are welcome! Make someone's day invite a friend!

GUEST SPEAKER - Janet Ray TOPIC: Holden Village

Holden Village is a remote wilderness community, rooted in the Lutheran tradition, that welcomes all people into the North Cascade Mountains, above Lake Chelan, Washington. Holden Village has transformed from a copper mining town into a vibrant community of education, programming, and worship.

We're serving a Mardi Gras - Waffle Brunch at 10:30 am and Janet Ray, our guest speaker to start about 11:30 am.

To help pay for the Brunch a thank offering basket will be available or donations.



COMMUNITY LIFELINE OF MASON COUNTY

I have recently ended my term as Board President with Community Lifeline after several years on the board. Erin Martinache has taken my place as President, and she will do a great job. She is a mental health counselor at Mason Clinics, along with a private practice. Please continue to support the shelter with your dinners, sandwiches and donations that are always so very needed.

I would like to thank Astrid and her dinner teams for all the years of feeding the homeless.

I would like to thank everyone in the Tuesday Sandwich Club that has provided hundreds, if not thousands of sandwiches that serve such an important purpose of feeding drop-ins and emergency situations.

I would like to thank all of you the donated socks, hats, gloves, coats, underwear and clothing. When a person lives out in the weather they are always in need of a change of clothes.

I would like to thank everyone that has contributed through private donations that allow for many other things to be done that aren't covered by grants. Grants work very differently these days in that you don't get money upfront any longer. You have to spend money, then get reimbursed for "allowed expenses". So, the monetary contributions are very important to projects that may not be covered by a grant. Last, I want to thank everyone for their support of me personally. Your encouragement has meant a lot and many times pushed me through difficult periods of the work. The homeless population is a difficult task, especially with the public and with government, so all your support was helpful.

Please continue to support Community Lifeline as a congregation. Homelessness is a crisis in America but let's just start in Shelton and do whatever we can to show the love of Jesus to everyone. I witnessed firsthand how your generosity and love impacted so many people living on the margins of society.

Chriss Brickert

Connection Street Theatre presents:

A VALENTINE'S MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

3 options to see the show:

Wednesday, Feb. 14
6:00 pm

Boneless pork and
shrimp dinner and
show

\$35/person
Buy tickets on line.

Thursday, Feb. 15
7:00 pm

Dessert Buffet and
show

\$10/person
Buy tickets at the door
or purchase on line.

Friday, Feb. 16
6:00 pm

Spaghetti and
meatballs dinner and
show

\$25/person
Buy tickets on line.



More details including full menu for each night, ticket prices and purchasing tickets.

Scan the code or visit the website:

<https://www.keystonecenterartsandsci.com/acting-out>



Connection Street Theatre is an outreach ministry of Faith Lutheran Church.
Our mission - *Making connections one production at a time.*

PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group joins together
for prayer on Tuesday mornings at
9:00am in the Chapel.

This is open to EVERYONE!

***We look forward to seeing
you there!***



"SPREAD LOVE
EVERYWHERE YOU GO."

— MOTHER TERESA

February 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>“When you give joy to other people, you get more joy in return. You should give a good thought to the happiness that you can give out.”</i></p> <p><i>Eleanor Roosevelt</i></p>						
<p>4</p> <p>9:00 Faith Choir 9:00 Confirmation 10:00 Sunday Worship 11:30 Search for the Historical Jesus 1:00 CST Rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00 Office Hours 11:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 CST Rehearsal</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:30 Sandwich Club 9:00 Office Hours 9:00 Prayer Group 9:00 Property Committee 1:00 Pinoche Club</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00 Office Hours 11:00 Pastor's Bible Study 6:00 Grub and Games</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00 Office Hours 9:00 Council Secretary Meeting 10:00 Sewing Saints 2:00 Grief Support 5:30 CST Rehearsal</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30 Men of Faith Bible Study 5:30 Community Dinner</p>
<p>11 <i>Waves of Change</i></p> <p>9:00 Choir 9:00 Confirmation 10:00 Sunday Worship 11:00 Joan Detrick Farewell 11:30 Search for the Historical Jesus 12:00 Blessing Bags Assembly 1:00 CST Rehearsal 5:30 Community Dinner</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00 Office Hours 10:30 Second Monday Luncheon 5:30 CST Rehearsal 6:15 YAC</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:30 Sandwich Club 9:00 Office Hours 9:00 Prayer Group 10:00 Council Orientation</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 Office Hours 6:00 Ash Wednesday 6:00 NAMI Family Support Group 6:00 Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:00 Office Hours 10:00 Sewing Saints 2:00 Grief Support 7:00 Murder Mystery Dessert Theatre</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Office Closed 6:00 Murder Dinner Theatre</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:30 Men of Faith Bible Study</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:00 Choir 9:00 Confirmation 10:00 Sunday Worship 11:30 Adult Forum 11:30 Personnel</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00 Office Hours 11:00 Staff Meeting 6:15 YAC</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:30 Sandwich Club 9:00 Office Hours 9:00 Prayer Group 1:00 Pinoche Club</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00 Office Hours 11:00 Pastor's Bible Study 6:00 Bless This Night 6:30 Soup Supper 6:30 Council 7:00 Partner's Forum 7:00 Youth Group</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00 Office Hours 10:00 Sewing Saints 2:00 Grief Support</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Office Closed 8:00 CIELO Food Bank</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:30 Men of Faith Bible Study</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9:00 Choir 9:00 Confirmation 10:00 Sunday Worship 11:30 Adult Forum</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00 Office Hours 11:00 Staff Meeting 6:15 YAC</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:30 Sandwich Club 9:00 Office Hours 9:00 Prayer Group 10:00 Newsletter Team 11:00 Faith + Luncheon</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 Office Hours 11:00 Pastor's Bible Study 6:00 Bless This Night 6:30 Soup Supper 7:00 Partner's Forum 7:00 Youth Group</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00 Office Hours 10:00 Sewing Saints 2:00 Grief Support</p>	<p>“DON'T LET YESTERDAY TAKE UP TOO MUCH OF TODAY.”</p> <p>—WILL ROGERS</p>	



**1212 Connection Street
Shelton, WA 98584**

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February Birthdays

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Alexandra Lafave | 8 Terri Ross | 24 Tyger Penson |
| 1 Gary Thorson | 9 Vickie Foster | 26 Lewis Jackson |
| 2 Yvonne McMullen | 12 David Daggett | 28 Terri Saylor |
| 2 Karen Skare | 20 Olyver Adams | 28 John Mee |
| 3 Hazel Krumland | 20 Eric Beeson | 28 Dave Mortensen |
| 3 Goldie Krumland | 22 Jonathon Garza | 28 Robyn Naval |
| 5 Tom Nevers | 23 Russ Hulbert | |

February Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|------------------------|--------|---------------------------|--------|
| 3 Paul & Andrea Miller | 23 yrs | 17 Jason & Lynnea Staley | 28 yrs |
| 4 Randy & Beth Grauer | 40 yrs | 19 Eric & Kirsten Barkman | 30 yrs |
| 12 Todd & Tyger Penson | 64 yrs | 27 Chris & Shaye Frost | 3 yrs |

***If you are missing from the Birthday and Anniversary list, please fill out the "Welcome Home" card in the pew.
Please include the year of your anniversary. It is important that everyone is included!***

