



A Celebration of 75 years of God's Faithfulness

Sunday, April 21, 2024, 10:00am-1:30pm



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SHELTON: 1949-2024

Welcome Home!

All people of Faith are cordially invited to celebrate the congregation's 75th anniversary of ministry and presence in Shelton, Washington.

Join us on Sunday, April 21, 2024, at 10:00am for a service of worship and praise led by the Geddes and the rest of the Celebration Team.

At 11:30am, make your way to the Fellowship Hall for a catered buffet dinner. Around 12:30pm we will have a brief program with humor, music, stories, special guests, and a group photo.

During the celebration, from 11:30 to 1:30, a photo booth hosted by Cooper Studios will be set up in the Three Door Room, where you can receive a free 4x6 portrait to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Faith. These portraits will also be used for a special picture directory which will be published later in the year.

No RSVP is required—there will be plenty for all. Most of the cost of this event is being covered by special donations. If you would like to offset some of the costs of this event, a free will offering will be available, or you can make a special donation in the church office (*include "75th Anniversary" on your check or statement*).

Faith hopes to have more events during the year to celebrate 75 years of God's faithfulness. Plans are in the works for a picture directory; a 75th anniversary memorial plaque; and all new signs both inside and outside the building and on the roadsides.

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come
Our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home!*



APRIL 2024

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (Lutheran Book of Worship, p. 67).

This is one of my favorite prayers in worship. It is an “Offertory,” traditionally spoken as the ushers bring the filled offering plates down the center aisle to be placed at the altar.

We haven’t been “passing the plates” during worship for a few years now. During the pandemic, most people began to send in offerings via mail or EFT. Even when we were together in worship, we looked for ways to protect our more vulnerable neighbors (remember the little pre-sealed communion cups?).

We adapted. We installed the “OTM” in the back of the sanctuary (Offerings, Tithes, and Messages). Giving levels stayed where they had been, and it even shaved a couple of minutes off the length of the service on Sunday mornings. Maybe “passing the plates” was just a vestige of the past, gone the way of Latin, communion registration, and kneeling at the altar.

But something is missing—something is missed—when we don’t pass the plate. After all, bringing an offering to the Lord is at the heart of the practice of worship. There is something sacred about receiving the plate from a neighbor on one side; handing the plate to the neighbor on the other side. A glance is exchanged. A smile. A tear. A child is learning how to give, proudly placing her quarters in among the envelopes, welcome cards, and \$20 bills. A pillar of the church ages, so the next generation steps up to usher, tithe, and teach.

*We give Thee but Thine own, we sing, whate’er the gift may be:
all that I have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.*

Faith is a generous, faithful, giving congregation. You give your tithes and offerings out of gratitude for God’s provision; in obedience to God’s word; and to bless and care for a world in need. Faith is also a fiscally responsible organization. We are debt free. We pay our bills. We pay fair wages. We live within our means. I am grateful to the congregation for its generous financial support and to the Council for its good stewardship of that which is given.

Faith has been passing the plate, giving, sharing, and managing God’s resources since 1949. Later this month, on April 21, we are going to splurge on ourselves and throw a little party to commemorate our 75th anniversary as a congregation. Take a look at the enclosed invitation, and plan to enjoy some time together with plenty of food, stories, music, flowers, and even a photo booth to celebrate God’s faithfulness “in ages past and years to come.”

And while we’re at it, maybe it is time to start passing the plates again. Maybe not EVERY Sunday, but regularly enough to get back into the practice of bringing our gifts, teaching our children, and seeing our neighbors.

--Pastor Doug

Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)

1212 Connection Street • Shelton, WA 98584 • 360-426-8611 • www.faithshelton.org

Rev. Dr. Douglas Peterson, Pastor

doug@faithshelton.org

406-381-0885

Rev. Brenda Satrum, Formation

brenda@faithshelton.org

406-381-1919

Terry Oliver, Grief Support

terryro@hcc.net

253-732-1869

Connie Himlie, Newsletter

geemacconnie@gmail.com

360-490-6684

Arleen Sandifer, Ministry/Outreach

arleensand@gmail.com

360-943-2512

Marissa Walker, Youth/Media

marissa@faithshelton.org

360-490-6446

APRIL IS ANNIVERSARY MONTH AT FAITH

This month Faith is formally celebrating two milestones. The big one, of course, is Faith's 75th anniversary, which we will celebrate on Sunday, April 21st. You can read all about it in the full page article included in this issue.

The other one is a special recognition of a special couple here at Faith. Not only are Todd and Tyger Penson my parents, they are also both retired Lutheran pastors. And this year marks both the 40th anniversary of Tyger's ordination (1984) AND the 60th anniversary of Todd's ordination (1964). That is 100 years of ordained ministry in the Lutheran church between the two of them. And THAT is worth pausing to appreciate!

On Sunday, April 7 (also Todd's birthday), Faith will formally recognize and thank the Pensons for a century of service. Their son (me!) will make sure there is cake to share after the service. The Pensons wanted to make sure they could still teach their class that Sunday, so plan to bring your piece of cake into the 3 Door Room and learn more about the Historical Jesus, every Sunday morning, after worship.

NEW STAFF, FAMILIAR FACES

Faith is pleased to welcome three new staff members. Arleen Sandifer is our new Outreach and Ministry Coordinator. Marissa Walker has come on board to work with Youth and Media. Lewis Jackson has agreed to help out with our praise bands twice a month on Sundays. All three are familiar faces around here and both long time members of the Shelton Community. Along with Connie H and Karyn C, Faith is served by a super competent and dedicated team. Next month's newsletter will give a more in depth introduction to the newbies and their new roles.

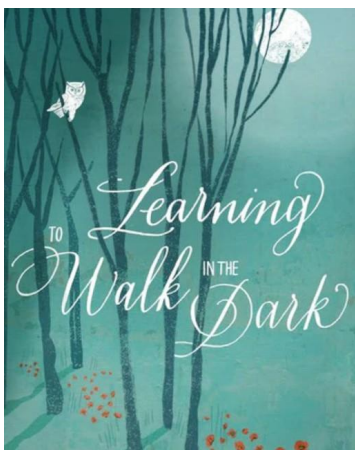
In addition, Faith has also contracted with Career Quest to employ two delightful gals to help make sure the church sparkles. Judy will be working on Tuesdays, and Robin on Wednesdays. They are aided by their case manager, Amanda. If you happen to see these hard working women, be sure to say hello and thank you!

As these staffing changes take place, I want to say thank you again to the many volunteers who do so much of the day to day work of Faith. Terry Ray has been on campus weekly making sure the plumbing doesn't stop and the roof stops leaking. Robyn Naval has been pulling double duty as both office volunteer AND Council Secretary. There are always opportunities for meaningful volunteer service at Faith and in our community ministries. Contact Pastor Doug or Arleen Sandifer to learn how you can get more involved.

LOVE WELL READING GROUP

Monthly, Second Saturdays 10-11:30 on Zoom

Monthly, Second Sundays, 11:30-1:30 at FLC



WOMEN: Enjoy some of the best fiction and non-fiction reading and conversation for growing, stretching, and even resting your spiritual muscles in a monthly book club facilitated by Pastor Brenda. 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/s at your favorite local bookseller or borrow from the library.

This month: *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Barbara Brown Taylor. Taylor considers the holy gifts of darkness: rest, mystery, what "dark" or "heavy" emotions offer us. She's a lovely writer and a profound thinker.

Coming Up: Another run at *The Very Good Gospel*, by Lisa Sharon Harper, *The Road Back to You*, Suzanne Stabile (personality styles), *Let Your Life Speak*, Parker Palmer, and suggestions from participants.

PRAYER GROUP

Join together in prayer Tuesday mornings at 9:00 in the Chapel. Everyone is welcome!

CONNECTION STREET WEDNESDAYS

- Evensong (Bless This Night), 6:00pm
- Community Meal, 6:30
- Youth Group & Adult Conversation, 7:00 – 8:00

Continuing the lovely rhythm we found during Lent, the invitation stands: Catch your breath midweek with lovely, singable, inclusive evening prayer: *Bless this Night*. Stay and eat with friends, then connect through conversation while the kids do their thing.

Fun First Wednesdays...

GRUB & GAMES FOR MENTAL HEALTH: APRIL 3 AND MAY 1

Take a mental health break! Bring friends ready for fun: Games for ages 6 through 86(ish)! Youth Group (10ish-14ish) with Frosts & Walkers, 6-10 year-olds with Pastor Brenda & helpers, and Adults with Donna Wardin & Eric Barkman. Many thanks to NAMI for the pizza and fixin's! We're working on special guests to lead Bucket Drumming...

Bless This Night Evening Prayer at 6pm, Pizza at 6:30, games from 7 to 8pm.

FAITH AT MASON HEALTH

Pastors Brenda, Terry, & Doug all take turns serving the patients at Mason General Hospital as volunteer chaplains. Monday through Wednesday, each of our pastors takes a shift to visit the ICU, ER, and the Med/Surg floor, and we each take a week of being on-call for after-hours situations/emergencies. Denise Carrico, chaplain at Harmony Hill, and David Hockaday, an Episcopal chaplain, visit on Thursdays and Fridays.

If you go to the hospital here in Shelton or anywhere else, please let one of us or the church office know. We would love to offer our support and prayer! Pastors' contact information is listed on the front page.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We are in need of more Prayer Shawls! Thankfully they are still going out at a good pace, but the supply to keep up is dwindling. Thank you to those that still make them. They're all so beautiful. For those that use to make them, maybe consider making them again??? There is a supply of yarn available, and the Quilting group donates yarn as well. Thrift stores are another source for yarn.

This has been a ministry of such blessings to literally hundreds of people now. I want to thank those of you that take them to people in need and keep this blessing going. If you have questions, please ask:

Chriss Brickert or Donna Pedersen

SEARCHING FOR THE HISTORICAL JESUS

This is the theme of our current Adult Study at Faith Lutheran Church. Our Sunday morning sessions are continuing through the life of Jesus. Beginning after Easter on April 7, and continuing through May 19, we will move from the mystery of the miracles through the final phases of Jesus' life, into, and through the resurrection, concluding with the birth of the Christian church.

Our textbook is the Bible. Our lecturer is Jean-Pierre Isbouts (pictured here).

Our facilitators are Tyger and Todd Penson.

We invite you to experience this series on the life of Jesus following worship each Sunday morning. The time is 11:15 a.m. for opening conversation with the video beginning at 11:30 a.m. We conclude each week after discussion around 12:00 to 12:15 p.m.

Hope to see you in April!



HEALING LIFE'S LOSSES - SEMINAR WRAP UP IN APRIL!

Spring always brings many transitions to our world. The days get longer and warmer, and new life continues to express itself around us. And so, also, our 10 week series on "Healing Life's Losses" concludes and transforms into a growth mode for the summer months ahead. The format of the 10 week seminar series designed to help meet the needs for mourning after the loss of a loved one, or other major life transition, will wrap up on Thursday, April 18th with a concluding celebration. Regular gatherings will continue but will follow the support group format through the summer months. A new seminar series will begin again in the Fall. If you have any questions, please feel free to text, email, or call Terry Oliver at 253-732-1869, (terryro@hcc.net).

2ND MONDAY ADULT BRUNCH

Monday, April 8th in the
Fellowship Hall from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM

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

GUEST SPEAKER - Educator Arlene Army

Arlene will be sharing her time in Africa with us.

Her main objective was to help students improve their education skills so that they could pursue higher education.



Lunch Menu: Hot Dogs and Chili Dogs will be provided.
Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share with the group.

Sign up sheet located in the Narthex.

FAITH YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES



**Our Youth are Going to Flathead Lake Bible Camp
July 21 - 26!**

**Be on the lookout for opportunities
to connect with and support our youth.**

VBS will happen the week of July 29!

The topic will be identifying and managing big emotions.

Contact Marissa Walker for questions on Camp or VBS

360-490-6646



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SCHOOL MINISTRY

We were able to obtain updated pictures of most of the Dominican Republic Sponsored children. They are all healthy and following their path in life as children with the tools to climb out of poverty. This year the school has sponsored 15 young graduates into college or higher education. When the ministry started 4 years ago, we had only 3. Please continue to pray for this ministry and thank God for its progress.



Our Grade School



Our High Schoolers (They are growing up!)



During our stay in Las Terrenas we were able to attend a fundraiser (Samana Smiles) for children needing medical care. It was a treat to see the high schoolers from Dominican Joe's entertaining the guests with traditional Dominican Dance. Also pictured below is a little girl that once could not walk and now attends Dominican Joe's school.

GOOD GRIEF

A Grief Support Group specifically for women will be meeting at Faith Wednesdays at 1pm. This is for all widows whose spouse/partner died recently or not so recently. Weekly gatherings that are not your typical support group - just one widow to another. Call 360-789-9997 for more information


FAITH + PARTNERS

Faith hosts a monthly luncheon to encourage networking between all of our community partners and the pastoral staff. The networking opportunity has been a successful tool for increasing communications between our Faith + partners.

COMMUNITY LIFELINE MEALS

Faith serves meals to the homeless at Community Lifeline one weekend a month. Contact Astrid Pearson to volunteer.

April 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 9:00 Office Hours 11:00 Staff Meeting 6:15 YAC	2 7:30 Sandwich Club 9:00 Office Hours 9:00 Prayer Group 9:00 Property Committee 1:00 Pinochle Club	3 9:00 Office Hours 11:00 Pastor's Bible Study 1:00 Good Grief 6:00 Bless this Night 6:30 Grub and Games	4 9:00 Office Hours 10:00 Sewing Saints 2:00 Grief Support	5 <i>Office Closed</i>	6 8:30 Men of Faith Bible Study 12:00 CST Set Building
7 9:00 Faith Choir 9:00 Confirmation 10:00 Sunday Worship 11:30 Historical Jesus 1:00 CST Rehearsal	8 9:00 Office Hours 10:30 Second Monday Luncheon 5:30 CST Rehearsal 6:15 YAC	9 7:30 Sandwich Club 9:00 Office Hours 9:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Great Bend Choir	10 9:00 Office Hours 11:00 Pastor's Bible Study 1:00 Good Grief 6:00 Bless This Night NAMI Family Support 6:30 Youth Group	11 9:00 Office Hours 10:00 Sewing Saints 2:00 Grief Support 5:30 CST Rehearsal	12 <i>Office Closed</i>	13 8:30 Men of Faith Bible Study 11:00 CST Set Building 5:00 Recovery Cafe Dinner & Auction 5:30 Community Dinner
14 <i>Waves of Change</i> 9:00 Choir 9:00 Confirmation 10:00 Sunday Worship 11:30 Historical Jesus Love Well Book Club 1:00 CST Rehearsal 5:30 Community Dinner	15 9:00 Office Hours 11:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 CST Rehearsal 6:15 YAC	16 7:30 Sandwich Club 9:00 Office Hours 9:00 Prayer Group 1:00 Pinochle Club 6:30 Great Bend Choir	17 9:00 Office Hours 11:00 Pastor's Bible Study 1:00 Good Grief 6:00 Bless This Night Council 6:30 Youth Group	18 9:00 Office Hours 10:00 Sewing Saints 2:00 Grief Support 5:30 CST Rehearsal	19 <i>Office Closed</i>	20 8:30 Men of Faith Bible Study
21 9:00 Choir 9:00 Confirmation 10:00 Sunday Worship 11:30 75th Anniversary Celebration Banquet 2:00 CST Rehearsal	22 9:00 Office Hours 11:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 CST Rehearsal 6:15 YAC	23 7:30 Sandwich Club 9:00 Office Hours 9:00 Prayer Group 11:15 Faith+ Luncheon 6:30 Great Bend Choir	24 9:00 Office Hours 11:00 Pastor's Bible Study 1:00 Good Grief 6:00 Bless This Night 6:30 Youth Group	25 9:00 Office Hours 10:00 Sewing Saints 2:00 Grief Support 5:30 CST Rehearsal	26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27 8:30 Men of Faith Bible Study
28 9:00 Choir 9:00 Confirmation 10:00 Sunday Worship LWR Quilt Sunday 11:30 Historical Jesus 1:00 CST Rehearsal	29 9:00 Office Hours 11:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 CST Rehearsal 6:15 YAC	30 7:30 Sandwich Club 9:00 Office Hours 9:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Great Bend Choir	<p><i>“Don't wait for extraordinary opportunities. Seize common occasions and make them great.”</i></p> <p>— Orison Swett Marden</p>			



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April Birthdays

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Emily Jennings | 8 Jacob Miller | 24 Lynn Wilson |
| 3 Pam Boad | 11 Louise Johnson | 25 Diane Hill |
| 4 Quinton Boyer | 13 Kara Barkman | 28 Marilyn Holt |
| 4 Keri Davidson | 15 Jan Ray | 28 Doris Oliver |
| 4 Larry Coupe | 18 Steve Boad | 28 Phenix Oleachea |
| 6 Sherry Coupe | 20 Michelle Himlie | 28 Clay Wilson |
| 7 Todd Penson | 20 Marilyn Novak | 29 Cindy Mortensen |
| 8 Joan Dolan | 22 Jim Watson | 30 Kathie Olson |

April Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|
| 4 Brian & June Bigelow | 19 yrs | 22 Larry & Linda Edralin | 55 yrs |
| 10 Joshua & Megan Tribble | 3 yrs | 26 Frank & Kristi Knott | 44 yrs |
| 11 Chad & Tonya Youngquist | 26 yrs | 30 Bill & Dorina Sleep | 58 yrs |
| 19 Jay & Connie Himlie | 49 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!*

