

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

MAY 2022



A message from Pastor Kristi

Greetings, Fir-Conway Lutheran family!

A huge thanks for all who contributed and bought things at our Fundraiser event during the month of April. We raised roughly \$2,300 throughout the event, with several people taking a tour of the Sanctuary. It was a great outreach opportunity, and I am thankful for this outpouring of gifts. The Mutual Ministry team along with Council are in talks about when we should have our famous "Pie Auction"! I will let you know when I know more, and a date is decided.

Other great news! We hosted over 100 people at our Easter Service this year, along with baptizing 3 young children! I had so much fun seeing kids pour out of the pews and sit around the communion rail. I love their enthusiasm and willingness to participate in the children's sermon. Our confirmation students will be meeting on May 29th for our "service project Sunday", they also have been helping during communion and now Fellowship hour. It was so great to have the time to talk with everyone this past Sunday, and please reach out to Kelly McKnight if you would like to host a Sunday.

Our FCLC Easter Egg hunt was a great success as well as a learning opportunity for next year. We had a great turn out along with those who donated candy and stuffed eggs. Thank you to all who contributed time and candy.

Graduates! We are looking for names of those graduating from Middle School, High School, or College! We would like to celebrate those milestones with you and your family. There will be a date in June which we will be honoring those students, along with cake!

Thank you all who have used Amazon Smile and have donated to Fir-Conway Lutheran! Since March we have received \$121.83 from the purchases made.

Thank you to those who have submitted a picture or signed up for pictures. My hope is to have an updated photo directory completed by this Summer. There is still time to submit or have your picture taken. The dates are the 8th of May and the 15th. If you would like a less formal setting, I will be taking pictures with my cell phone of those who are unable to participate in either date, to help complete the directory.

Onto the sad news, many of you know Solveig Lee's sister Anna. I wanted to let you know that she passed away on Hospice this past Monday. I don't know any details of when a service will be held but will let you know when I have more information.

I give thanks for each of you and the life and joy you bring to Fir-Conway Lutheran Church.

Blessings, Pastor Kristi

The Spirit is a publication of the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA. It is intended for synod members, congregations & organizations.
They are encouraged to reproduce these articles in their own monthly organizational publications.

From the Bishop: I recently watched a documentary series that talked about bodies. In this documentary it was pointed out how in our society certain bodies are acceptable and “beautiful” (usually thin, young, female, white, etc.) and other bodies are not (usually fat, old, disabled, disfigured, etc.) One of the suggestions in this documentary to counteract society’s shaming culture about bodies is to stand in front of a mirror and look at your body. And, as you look at your body, to name, out loud, the positive things that you see in the mirror. For five minutes. Five. Minutes. This is a long time. And, to be honest, I have a much easier time naming my body’s deficits than attributes. Perhaps you can relate to this.

I think that we have the same problem when it comes to “church bodies.” Just as individual bodies are critiqued, church bodies are critiqued in this society, as well. A church body that has 800 bodies in it seems “sexier” than a church body that has 40 bodies in it. A church body that has younger bodies in it seems more attractive than a church body that has older bodies in it. A church body that has X, Y, or Z seems better than a church body that has R, P, or G (you fill in the letters). We have narrowed what it means to be beautiful and viable in the church much like we have with people in society - and if your particular context is different, it is easy to become tired and overwhelmed. It is easy to feel overlooked and shamed. It is easy, quite simply, to be discouraged.

But what if we expanded what it means to be the body of the church? What if – much like beauty standards need to do – we embraced a diversity of sizes and shapes? What if we truly incorporated what God does constantly – create and shape and grow and nurture a multitude of church bodies for the sake of the good news of Jesus?

I mean ... just as God never intended for the evergreen to be the only tree on earth (as beautiful as our state tree is), God never intended for one body to be the perfect body (as beautiful as each body is). The same goes for our church bodies. Think if we truly embraced the young and the old, the small and the large, the variety and multi-faceted ways of being church – including celebrating all that we do and are for the sake of the Gospel.

What if we listed all of the ministries that we participate in and that we partner with others outside of the church? What if we looked at the ministries that last a month or a year as important as those that last for decades? What if we said “yes” to ideas that seem different from what we’ve always done? What if we expanded church beyond worship on Sunday morning to ... what? What would you say? What do you envision? How is your imagination sparked through the Holy Spirit?

I encourage you to do the same exercise that is suggested from that documentary I mentioned above – only hold the mirror to our church body. What are you seeing and experiencing as attributes? What do you love about the church body that you participate in? What is beautiful? What formative experience is deep within you that you hold onto and would like to share with others? What do you see as a possibility beyond what you have been doing? What do you see as an obstacle that perhaps, upon closer inspection, could be a passageway? How has God gifted your community? Where is God’s Spirit nudging you now?

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, enslaved or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee
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From Synod Vice President Kay Edgerton
He is Risen! He is risen indeed!

During the height of the pandemic, I had an artistic neighbor who brightened our neighborhood walks by creating chalk murals on her wooden fence. Hearts and flowers in February, shamrocks and rainbows in March, and last Easter a lovely depiction of the empty tomb with the words, “He is not here, for He has risen!” emblazoned on it. I posted a picture of the mural on Facebook with the note that I prefer to think that because He is risen, He is here. Some of my friends explained that clearly, it was just noting that the reason that the tomb was empty is because Jesus had risen and was no longer there. That, however, wasn’t my point. Certainly, in the context of the mural, that makes sense, but theologically *is* risen is my preferred statement. Not to get too deeply into the grammatical implications (an occupational hazard) but, in the phrase “has risen” the word risen is acting as a past participle verb, describing an action that has happened in the past. In the phrase “is risen” the word risen is acting as an adjective, describing a state of being. Jesus didn’t just arise from the dead once in the past, or even multiple time in the past (as in, I have risen at 6am every day in the past month), Jesus is now and will forever be our risen Lord, meeting us in unexpected places, revealing Himself to us in the breaking of the bread, calling us to act justly, and love mercy. Because He *has* risen, he is no longer in the tomb, but because He *is* risen, He is with us always.



Here are a few things I or the Synod Council have been up to:

- Executive Committee met on April 21. Among other actions, we made final preparations for the June council meeting and Synod Assembly.
- I served as the synod representative at a congregational meeting at Our Savior Lutheran in Issaquah.

Kay Edgerton, Vice President
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Want an Easy Way to Donate to FCLC While Shopping?

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from customers' eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organizations they select. The minimum amount a charitable organization must accrue to receive a quarterly donation is \$5.00. The same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com are available on AmazonSmile. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Your selection will be remembered, and then every eligible purchase you make through **AmazonSmile** will result in a donation. You use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile.

Here's how to sign up for AmazonSmile

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with your **Amazon.com** credentials
3. Choose a **charitable organization** to receive donations, or search for the charity of your choice
4. Select your charity: **Fir-Conway Lutheran Church**

Church Council Minutes

April 2022 Fir-Conway Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

6:40 pm call to order

Those present: Jon Glastra, Pastor Kristi, Renee Bowzer, Dave Reep, Judy Bekker, Jean Linde, Matt Mathison, Lori Walser

Excused: Diane Olsen, Kelly Leifer,

Reflection/Opening Prayer:

Pastor read a passage from the Bible and led us in opening prayer

Treasurer's report: Dave Reep gave the updated report with a few highlights and questions answered:

- We have received our first rent payment from the parsonage and turned around and paid the property taxes to the county

- We put a down payment of \$15,470.00 on the elevator
- A check for \$865 will be sent to the special offering Ukraine fund

Pastors Report: Pastor shared her report for April,

She is welcoming 3 students from the Burlington Lutheran Church into our confirmation class. Their pastor will help co-teach the classes, and the council voted unanimously to welcome this partnership

Committee Reports:

Christian Education: Renee shared that

- the Community Easter Egg Hunt is a go at 10:00 for Saturday April 16th, and the playground at Conway School has been reserved.
- Preschool children, students going into 2nd grade, and confirmation kids will all receive a Bible as a gift from the church
- In the fall, we will re-visit the expectation for confirmation students and families.

Evangelism Committee: Matt shared that

- Our partnership with Friendship House is going great, and we are continuing to serve about 70 people. \$125 will cover expenses for a week.
- Upcoming pie auction-more details to follow
- He will share at Easter service about the need for more supplies at Friendship House.
- Kelly McKnight will organize the coffee hour serving teams that will begin in May

Lydia Ladies Aid: Jean Linde shared that:

- Overall, the tulip information booth on the weekends has been a good thing. People have been generous with their purchases and we are looking forward to doing this again.

Property and Management: Jon shared that:

- He and Kelly Leifer removed the headworks and existing electrical of the elevator. Kelly took 842 lb. of scrap metal to a recycler.
- Jon will contact the vendor to continue moving forward.

- He updated us on the oil furnace situation in the education wing, which is not a new problem, and we hope the problem has been resolved.
- Another work party will be scheduled on the 25th (tentative date)

Stewardship/Finance: Kelly McKnight shared that:

- This committee will have meetings pre-council, at 6:00 each month.
- Time* Talent* Treasure* is a good backbone for stewardship

Worship & Music: Judy Bekker shared that the committee will be meeting this month.

- Possible piano dedication

Congregational Liaison:

Old Business:

- Go Fund Me-Renee shared that she has spent many hours researching and gathering information. The site is ready to go, but we have to resolve some issues centering around setting up the PayPal account
- Grace grants- Pastor shared that she will be applying for the synod grant, due May 1, and will benefit the whole of the church.

New Business:

- Church Directory-sign up sheet has been generated for the May 8th and May 15th for picture taking
 - Harvey Smith will take the preschool pictures,
 - \$25 for digital pictures, with an option to order prints
- Partnership agreement with Josephine, signed and prepared
- Stained glass restoration-Terry Crow dropped off a proposal to offer his services. We unanimously agreed that it is not a top priority right now.
- The expectation for the utility bills is that Dave or Jon will approve them each month, before they are paid.
- Johnathon Thomas stopped by to let us know that there was a recall on our AED. Once the new pads arrive, Renee will switch them out.

We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted
Lori Walser
FCLC Secretary

Upcoming Events

5/8 Mother's Day! Please sign up or stop by to have your picture taken for the new picture directory we are hoping to have. I would love to see what all of you look like, without your mask. Many of you have grown up and added to your families since the last picture directory. My wonderful friend, and fellow Lutheran, Harvey Smith from Edmonds, Washington. Is donating his time and money, to come take our pictures. He will be available Sunday May 8th and May 15th from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. to take your picture. He is great with kids, and there is no cost to you to come sit. If you would like to purchase a picture it will be about \$18. The printed directory, in color, will not cost members anything. It is a gift from Fir-Conway Lutheran.

5/11 Cemetery Committee Meeting at 5 p.m.
Council at 6:30 p.m.

5/19 Preschool's End of Year program at 6 p.m.

5/20 Private Wedding at 5 p.m.

5/21 AA at 4 p.m.

5/29 Ascension Sunday, Confirmation after Fellowship Hour

5/30 Front office closed due to Holiday observance

6/4 Synod Assembly-Kelly McKnight and Pastor Kristi will be attending as Representatives of FCLC

6/5 Pentecost Sunday