

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

JULY 2022



A message from Pastor Kristi

Summer greetings!

For as long as I remember, I love history and discovering historic places. Envisioning those whose lives intersected with the building or town, what it must have been for the community over 100 years ago, and what remains. It has been a fun year of discovering the richness of Fir-Conway Lutheran, and I recently discovered the cornerstone of our church while weeding the flowerbeds! Looking at photo albums, historical documents, and even historical quilts! It gives me context of understanding and questions to ask as I listen to the various stories of those who have ties to this community.

I've taken this past year to listen. Listen to the stories, listen to the heartache and the joys, hearing pieces of pride, and things that can bring complications. It's been a year of discovery, not only of myself, but of you who call Fir-Conway Lutheran home. Along with an enthusiasm as we continue to blossom and continue to bring a sense of "normalcy".

I recently share with Council the time I intentionally take for reflection, creating space within my daily walk to truly listen to God, handing those things that block my path and being restored to fully engage. Recognizing my own history that has shaped me, that informs how I might react or act at different times. Understanding, like FCLC, there is a complex and rich deepness within my stories to guide me.

When we look at the continued growth, as we live in this "new normal" of Covid in various stages, I see positive things. I see the young families, returning members, people searching for a new Church home, come through our doors. I see all the young kids come forward, those staying for Coffee Hour, or those helping at Coffee Hour. I hear the struggles some have getting to church or feeling engaged at times. I hear the yearning for activities, socializing, and the continue to reconnect with the ministries we support.

My encouragement to each of you is, God is with us in all things, through all things, and is alive! God has been breathing life into FCLC, God will continue to hear our cries of joy and pain. God continues to give us the gift of free grace, something we don't have to earn but get to receive.

Looking forward, we have lots of things to look forward, to rejoice in as God continues to walk with us. I pray as we move that we feel the Spirit move within us, and within this Church. Knowing God has mighty things in store for us as we participate in worship. We must be willing to hear and respond. I pray for each of you, near and far either physically or relationally, may the peace that surpasses all understanding be upon you. I pray for Fir-Conway Lutheran as we continue to be not only a place full of history, but be a place full of the Holy Trinity, alive and well for years to come.

The Spirit is a publication of the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA. It is intended for synod members, congregations & organizations.

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July 2022



From the Bishop:

It was a joy and delight to gather for the 2022 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly, “Abound in Hope!” With over 330 people in attendance, the atmosphere was warm, inviting, celebratory, and festive. We had not gathered in-person since 2019 and it was so good to be together again.

We sang, we clapped, we listened, we learned, we prayed, we worshiped, we spoke, and we did the business of the Church. Through all of it, we trust and know that the Holy Spirit is moving and dancing in the Northwest Washington Synod. I invite you to watch the entire synod assembly here

on our YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PQcXh9IZvY&t=6s or the highlights that are hyperlinked below. (You will also find each of the individual videos on the synod website here: www.lutheransnw.org/synod-assembly.)

During the day, we played four “Stories of Hope” videos from congregations in our synod.

Learn more about these ministries:

- Monroe Congregation Partnership vimeo.com/714332195/0b6b67b19b
- Faith Lutheran, Everett vimeo.com/714332202/ca4c6b5029
- Lutheran Church in the San Juans vimeo.com/714332210/3310c53d2c
- Prince of Peace, SeaTac vimeo.com/714335177/aefc3769a3

We lifted up congregations and rostered ministers who were celebrating milestone anniversaries:

- Shepherd of the Valley, Maple Valley celebrating 50 years of ministry
- Faith Lutheran, Redmond celebrating 75 years of ministry
- Watch the Rostered Minister Celebration Video here: <https://vimeo.com/717125144>

We gave thanks to one congregation and two SAWCs (Synodically Authorized Worshipping Communities) for their faithful ministry who entered legacy through closure or merger:

- Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Issaquah - merged with Our Savior Lutheran Church, Issaquah
- Seattle Taiwanese Lutheran Fellowship, Seattle - closed
- Reborn Fellowship, Shoreline - closed

We discussed and passed three resolutions which have now been referred to the ELCA Memorials Committee for consideration by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly this August. These resolutions are linked below – you may also find them on our synod assembly webpage.

- [Reparations and Land Return Memorial](#)
- [Audit of ELCA Constitutions and Bylaws](#)
- [Portico Review to Grant Disability Status to Persons Experiencing Mental Illness](#)

In the Bishop’s Report, the synod staff and I lifted up our priorities and values for this next year.

Find details in the videos below and in my written [Report of the Bishop](#).

- Established Congregations and New Expressions of Ministry - <https://vimeo.com/716119337>
- Transitions - <https://vimeo.com/716116325>
- Legacy - <https://vimeo.com/716125835>
- The LiVE Project - <https://vimeo.com/716102514>
- Synodically Authorized Ministers (www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PQcXh9IZvY&t=8s at 2:27:23)
- Justice, Equity, and Belonging (www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PQcXh9IZvY&t=8s at 2:28:45)

The Synod Assembly was a wonderful time together. As I look forward to this next year, I am thankful to God for the Spirit of love and grace that permeates this synod. I am thankful for the synod staff and for synod council. And I am thankful for you - dear Beloveds of Christ in the Northwest Washington Synod. I am grateful to be on this journey with you.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

bishop@lutheransnw.org



From the VEEP

As I write this, NWWA Synod Assembly (Abound in Hope) has just wrapped up. It was a wonderful time of fellowship, worship, and action. All three resolutions brought before the assembly passed and the spending plans and budget caps for the next two years were approved. If you would like to see a recording of the event, you can find it here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PQcXh9IZvY&t=8s. I would especially commend to you the bishop's sermon from the morning worship. (Find it beginning at minute 31:00.) She was so eloquent on how it is we can abound in hope amidst the many serious challenges we face as individuals, as a nation, and as a church.

I was also elected to a second term, and, as I said in my remarks to the assembly, it is my very great privilege to serve as vice president of the NWWA Synod. I also shared something that I believe is very important in the way synod governance is configured in the ELCA. There are two officer roles which have very specific and distinct qualifications. The bishop, who is also the president, must be a minister of word and sacrament (which makes sense since the bishop is also the pastor of the synod) and the vice president must be a lay person. The two top offices of the synod reflect the partnership between clergy and laity that makes us strong. We don't need to be called to ordained ministry to serve the church. We are all, clergy and lay, called to serve our neighbor, witness to God's grace and power, and love one another as God loves us. Our ministries can take many forms. Some of us serve meals to the hungry, some build homes for the unhoused, some provide a listening ear or a soft shoulder to those in distress, and some cover their cars with uplifting and affirming magnets to spread God's love wherever they go.

We are blessed here in the NWWA Synod with strong, faithful, spirit filled leaders, both rostered and lay, who have answered a call to ministry by serving on synod council. I'd like to take just a moment to introduce you to them.

The following people will be continuing on council:

- Imani Austin (youth)
- Bart Brosten (Treasurer)
- Pastor Hector Garfias-Toledo
- Pastor Ivar Hillesland
- Pastor Rebecca Langholz
- Sherianne Molzhan Caldwell
- Lauren Ode-Giles (young adult)
- Pastor Sam Sseba
- Elizabeth (Elly) Stitt

Newly elected/appointed council members:

- Deacon Luke Allgeyer
- Salvador Cossio
- Pastor Netsie Griffith (Secretary)
- Shane Lambing
- Cindy Shultz

I look forward to working with these servant leaders as we continue to go forward, abounding in hope. Thank you to those council members who concluded their terms this year: Deacon Amy Bingham, James Colver, Beth Lewis, Eric Peoples, and Pastor Deanna Wildermuth – we have been richly blessed by your leadership!

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

- June 3 Council Meeting
- June 4 Synod Assembly!
- Executive Committee did not meet in June, having just completed the assembly there was no work for us to tackle. Synod Council meets on July 16.

Kay Edgerton, Vice President

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BACK TO School

Calling all parents of Sunday School age students!

Sept 11th at 9:15 a.m.-9:45 a.m.

Will be the first Sunday School in person once again!

During Church students will be receiving new bibles and after service we are having a BBQ to celebrate the return of in-person Sunday School.

We need parent to help once a month maybe every other, with lesson time and crafts. Pastor Kristi will be sending out a list for rotation of parent helpers.

HAVE YOU Heard?

Matt Mathison is looking for volunteers to provide meals, prep or serve once a month at Friendship House. There are sign up sheets in the Fellowship Hall.



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 June 2022 Fir-Conway Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

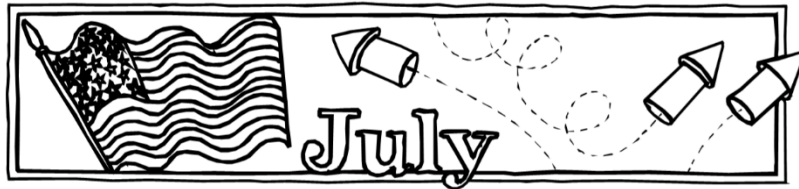
Old Business:

- AA will have a new person in charge. They will be meeting the 3rd Saturday of the month from 4:30-8 p.m.
- Elevator-has been delayed. There is work to still be done.
- Discussion of different heating systems and how to prepare for increase of heating oil and propane within the next year.
- Thank you was given for Renee's brother in-law who stretched the Sanctuary carpet.
- Good rotation of Sunday Stewards-please let us know if you want to serve.

New Business:

- Preschool- Renee and Pastor met with Jennifer Case today.
 - 14 kids enrolled in the fall (they had 13 kids this year)
 - September 13th first day of school
 - Preschool tuition will be increased in the Fall of 2023
- Fall Bazaar-October 22nd, 4th Saturday in October
 - Bake sale, Craft Items, White Elephant items, Produce, Raffles, have all been included in past Fall Bazaars
- Discussion about interest in Harvest Dinner and Fritschel dinner
 - Diane will casually ask Harvey Wolden and Betty H. if they are interested in continuing this tradition.

Upcoming Events



7/12 New Membership Class at 5:30 p.m.

7/15 Ragnar Race will be using our Parking lot from 7:30 p.m.-midnight

7/16 An off-site wedding has rented our parking lot

7/16 AA from 4:30-8 p.m.

7/19 New Membership Class starting at 5:30 p.m.

7/23 Sunday School Activity at 12:30 p.m. Tie Dye

7/26 New Membership Class at 5:30 p.m.

7/30-8/8 Pastor Kristi will be on vacation, she will be back in the office the morning of the 8th.