



*The
Banner
of Faith*



OCTOBER 2020

**FAITH-LILAC WAY
LUTHERAN CHURCH**



This edition of the newsletter is for October - November 15. Why the longer time-frame? As you may have heard, some in the US Post office fear being overwhelmed by the additional mail that they are anticipating because of people mailing in their ballots instead of going to the polls. We don't want to add to the burden of mail - so we will mail the November newsletter after November 11, Veterans Day.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Dear fellow saints and sinners,

We all know what makes a sinner (sinning - i.e something that goes against God's way and God's will), but what makes you a "Saint?" Do you have to have a halo around your head (like they did in medieval paintings?) Or only say pious things? Or have miracles attributed to you?

Martin Luther taught - and we still believe, that we are simultaneously saints and sinners. We believe that each one of us was made a saint when we were baptized. By God's Word and with the earthly element of water, you and each one of us was claimed by Christ Jesus as a child of God and became one of the saints on earth. But we also know that each one of us makes mistakes. We all fall short of being the people that God made us to be (we are sinners) and need God's forgiveness and reconciliation every day. That's why, in our worship, we confess our sins and ask God to forgive us. And God does. This is why on earth, we live as both saints *and sinners. However, when we die, we become part of the saints in heaven having been reconciled with God, once and for all.*

Sunday, November 1 is "All Saints Sunday." On this day, we remember and give thanks for the saints on earth by remembering our baptism and the saints in heaven by lighting candles. We particularly remember those who have died since the last All Saints Sunday in our church and community. We will remember by name and light a candle for these saints who have died since November 1, 2019:

Eleanor Bjorkquist

JoAnn Bloom

Dawn Brown

Don Emmans

Roger Erickson

Anna Marie Finstrom

Margaret (Marge) Flor

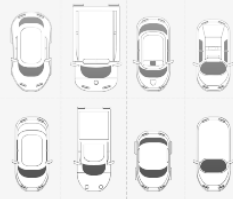
Dave Olson

The book of remembrance will be available at the parking lot worship for you to add the names of those who have died who were not members of our congregation.



OCTOBER WORSHIP OPTIONS

PARKING LOT WORSHIP!



SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM

As it gets colder... You can be safe and warm in your car, worshipping and singing God's praise. The pastors will be outside - just dressed more warmly!

Bring your own bread and grape juice / wine or pick up a prepackaged communion cup. Bring the bulletin if you received it in the mail or are able to print it from the website (extra copies are available). Park your car facing the church building and tune your FM radio to the station listed on the white board by the parking lot entrance.

ONLINE WORSHIP!



We will continue to offer online worship services complete with liturgy, scripture, a message and music. To access, go to our website: <http://www.faithlilacway.org/online-worship>.

Want to be BACK INSIDE the Sanctuary?

We are planning an experiment and we want your input. It won't look the same as our traditional service (no singing or coffee fellowship afterwards). Still interested? Contact Pastor Pam



HOLY COMMUNION BY ZOOM!

**Mini-Services with Communion available
via Zoom Sundays at 10:30 AM**

Use the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98882846617?pwd=eVV0TWlveTluN1pZWdN4L3ZkMnNHQT09>

OR Dial by phone

Or by phone: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 988 8284 6617

Password: 335870



October 4 - Blessing of the Animals Sunday

Send a picture of your pet or any other animal by Sept 30 for the online service or bring your pet to the FLW parking lot Sunday at 9:30



October 25 - Reformation Sunday

On Reformation Sunday we sing "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" and give thanks for our past - but we also look to our future. This year, we will be caring for the neighbor by hosting a Food Drive for KidPack, our Mission of the Month on Sunday, October 25 from 9-11 AM (coinciding with our parking lot worship).



A WORD FROM PASTOR PAM

Tell me a story!

Author, teacher and church consultant Rev. Susan Beaumont encourages churches to tell their stories as a way to not only remember our experiences in the past, but also to point out what we value and as a tool for shaping our future. I've been sharing some of the stories on our Facebook page, but since not everyone has access to that, I thought I would share some here too. .

Carol Flom shared a story of how she was made to feel welcome at Faith-Lilac Way and gave us permission to share her story online and in the Banner. She writes:

I was an active alcoholic for many years, although for the most part I was functioning: Raising a family, working, etc., although I did lose some jobs. Eventually, I really really wanted to quit. I went through 4 programs, 2 outpatient, two in hospital. They would work for only a few months after completion. Then the compulsion would begin again. I finally became sober through Alcoholics Anonymous. I'm not saying it is the cure all for everyone, only that it was for me.

When our home church closed, we joined Faith Lilac Way. Helen Brandon and Carolyn Lageson greeted me that first Sunday when we were checking out churches.

Durk Thompson became our vicar/intern a couple of years after we joined. He asked members to make appointments with him so he could get to know us. I made an appointment because it was the friendly thing to do. I didn't intend to bring up my sobriety (it had only been 4 years) because when I'd gone for help with our former pastor it had not gone well. I did not expect the church to be interested. I did wind up telling Durk because it came up in a conversation about something else, I don't remember now what, maybe employment, and I felt I could not lie. I blushed and said "I am an alcoholic in recovery" Durk leaned over his desk with a big grin on his face (remember his smile?) And he said "So am I...."

Churches have a bad reputation of being places where people have to look and act as if they were perfect. But we are not – we are all forgiven sinners in need of God's and one another's grace and love. Carol's story reminds me of the importance of not only welcoming others, but being vulnerable enough to share your story because someone else may need to hear it too. Thank you Carol!

What stories do you remember? What stories could you tell? Some stories make us laugh in the retelling, other stories tell about how we came through challenges. Some stories just make us smile. The stories that we tell reflect not only what we have been but also our values and the church that we are and will become. Tell me a story!



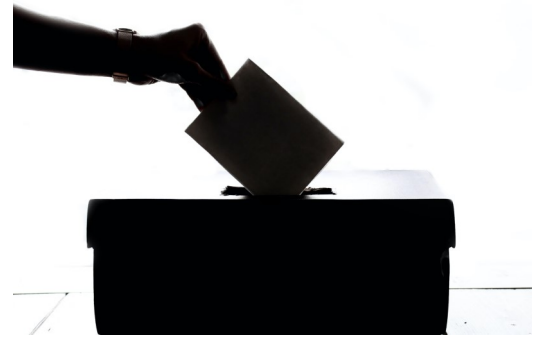


Why vote? As former US Representative John Lewis once said: “The vote is precious. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democratic society, and we must use it.” This is how we, as the people of this country can speak.

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. said it this way: “Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and senators and congressman and government officials, but the voters of this country.” The beautiful thing about the way our democracy works is that no one’s vote “counts” more than anyone else’s. We are all made equal. Everyone gets one vote.

Further, while most people pay attention to the Presidential race, the elections where your vote counts the most is in the races “down the ballot” - the representatives, local offices and judges. Take time to find out what else is on your ballot. Often the local leaders are the ones who affect your daily life the most! You can get a copy of YOUR sample ballot here: <https://myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us>

As people of faith, voting is an important way that we can engage our voice. Christians may differ -- and do -- on who they think are the best candidate. But we can be an example to others that, even when we disagree, we can honor one another and each person in this country as a beloved child of God.



HOW DO I VOTE?

1. Register
2. Make a plan. Decide **HOW** you want to vote:
 - Early in person?
 - Absentee by mail? *(No excuse needed. Although you have until Election day, why not do it early to avoid the chance that it would not make it there in time?)*
 - In person on election day? *Find your polling place.*
 - Delivered by an agent? *There are special rules and accommodations for this method. It is especially for those who live in a nursing home or assisted living or for those who are ill.*
3. **VOTE!** (by or before **Tuesday**, Nov 3.)

Questions? See <https://sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/> for more information
Vote ONCE. It is illegal to vote more than once.

YOUTH CORNER

SUNDAY STORYTIME FOR FLW KIDS

We miss seeing our youngest members for Sunday School! Beginning October 18th, right after parking lot worship (around 10:30am), join us for a short Sunday Storytime in the church (or outside if possible). Please bring your masks; we will safely distance the little ones. You will also be able to pick up a prepackaged snack to go and a fun activity for the week.

CONFIRMATION

We are meeting in person and outside for now and planning a hybrid option for colder weather. We are reading devotions from The Simple Truth Bible, studying the catechism and having a great time together.

HIGH SCHOOL GATHERING

High Schoolers are invited to join us (in-person, outside for now) for great conversations about your questions and prayers. We are trying some new everyday faith-practices using The Simple Truth Bible devotions, journaling and more.

THANK YOU

Cherish All Children— Dear Friends at Faith Lilac Way, thank you so much for your recent gift this summer—your generosity and partnership is so appreciated! Peace & Blessings, Joy McElory CAC

Meals of Wheels North Suburban Hennepin County We know that Meals of Wheels is all about forming relationships. Meals on wheels isn't just about a hot meal, but its about being there for others and making them feel loved. The volunteers drop meals off, at a safe distance in masks, say hello, and ask how everyone is doing. Don't forget that Meals on Wheels just merged with Northwest Suburban Dinner At Your Door and they will continue to provide warm nutritious meals to kind smiling faces.

FACEBOOK

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY

Check out our Facebook page for inspirational scripture and messages each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning.

TUESDAY MORNING MEDITATION ON FACEBOOK WITH VICAR KRISTIN

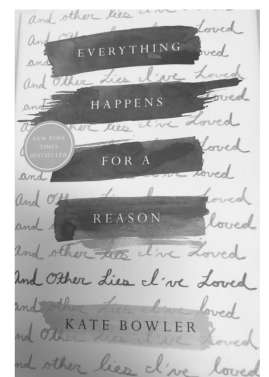
You are invited to make space in your week for a brief online time of meditation with Vicar Kristin. She will light a candle and share prayers that speak into our current uncertainties and ground us in God's presence. Look for a video link on our Facebook page on Tuesday mornings. Here is the QR code for Facebook. Take your phone out, open your camera, scan the code, and click the link. Here is the link to our Facebook also: www.facebook.com/faithlilacway

THURSDAY PRAYERS WITH PASTOR PAM

Join Pastor Pam in October on THURSDAYS at 5 PM on Facebook for Prayers of hope, peace and thanksgiving to God. In this time in which there is so much division and challenges - we need to come together as God's people in prayer.

Return to Book Club... on Zoom!

Join us in reading and discussing Kate Bowler's memoir Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 - 8:30pm, beginning October 14th over Zoom. Buy your own book online, or if that is difficult right now, let Vicar Kristin know and she will get you a copy. RSVPs needed to Vicar Kristin at vicar@faithlilacway.org.



GOD OF HEALING,

let your healing power be with all those who are in need of health, healing, and wholeness, especially:

David Bjorkquist, Helen and John Brandon, Jacqueline Butkowski, Sandy Dolence, Larry Geer, Beverly Evans, Bob Fernelius, Brad Hessler, Ruth Kuder, Casey Pendzimas, Herb Scheelk, Cori Vallis, and Lucas Wiste. Surround with your presence all who are in care centers, including: **Ramona, Lois, Jane, George, Herb, Carolyn, and Helen.**

Surround these and all those who you know need love and care.

Grant wisdom, strength and resilience to the medical and care teams that are caring for people with the coronavirus. Give inspiration to the researchers working on a vaccine.

Guide us as we seek to acknowledge and correct the sin of racism in our country and communities. Help us to create and be the beloved community that you would have us be where everyone is treated as your beloved child.

All of this, and whatever else that you know that we need, we offer in Jesus' name.

Amen.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Pray for, call, email, send a note to these members as they celebrate their birthdays this month. To correct or add a birthday, call the office (763.537.4523) so we can update our records. Thank you.

1 st	Jack Wilson	19 th	David Bjorkquist	28 th	Cyndi Lettau
2 nd	Donna Helder		Eric J Olson		Joseph Luoma
	Marjorie Lane	22 nd	Lauren Lynum	29 th	Lucille Nelson
	Grace Stobbs	24 th	Johnathan Lindgren	30 ^h	George West
4 th	Linda St. John		Rose Nwoko		
5 th	Joseph Bahnman	25 th	Everett Love		
7 th	Preston Stevens		Autumn Wiste		
8 th	Evan Shallcross	26 th	Brielle Anderson		
9 th	Daniel Shaw		Robert Fernelius		
10 th	Tim Brausen	27 th	Lauren Helder		
12 th	Lynn Hillestad		Chinomso Nwoko		



**SUNDAY WORSHIP
 ONLINE:
www.faithlilacway.org
 PARKING LOT:
 9:30 AM**



OCTOBER MISSION

KidPack is the October Mission of the month. KidPack has a mission to help supply every student and family that needs it with non-perishable, healthy, yet fun food items for the weekend at no cost to the parent or to the school. This program started in January or 2010 with one elementary school and one church that served 50 students. KidPack now helps out 1/2 a million students in the area.

On October 25, Reformation Sunday. Faith-Lilac Way will be hosting a Drive-up Food Drive for KidPack. This will take place 9:00—11:00 AM. You may bring your items during Parking Lot Worship. We are looking for the following items:

Non-Perishable Food:

Fruit: Pineapple, peaches, mango, pears, applesauce, mandarin oranges, prunes/raisins

Vegetables: Carrots, corn, Mixed veggies, green beans, peas, bamboo shoots, baby corn

Entrees: Chili, chicken noodle soup, Pasta sauce, mac and cheese, ravioli, enchilada sauce, chipotle in adobo, diced tomato, tomato paste, fava beans, curry soup, coconut milk, curry paste, tomato soup

Grain: Rice, spaghetti, macaroni, oatmeal, corn flour, fideo noodle, rice noodle, bean thread noodle

Protein: Tuna, chicken, black beans

For more information email
fooddrive@thesheridanstory.org